

# HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, March 7, 2013

Read by more than 41,000 people

Price when sold 50p

mna media

## Family fortune

Couple and children are instant multi-millionaires

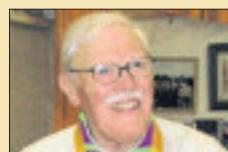
Page 5



## Scout tribute

Dedicated scoutmaster dies after lifetime service

Page 6



## Hockey heaven

Double victory for men's team clinches promotion

Page 40



## Bosses at Kristian's gym will fight on

**BOSSES** at the Halesowen gymnastics club of Olympic medal-winner Kristian Thomas have vowed to fight to secure funding after losing a vital sports grant.

The news came after a proposed move to new premises fell through at the 11th hour to the surprise of officials.

Earls Gymnastics Club was to start work this week on an active health centre at the former Wheel Spin go-karting track in Dudley Road after receiving planning permission from Dudley Council.

The move from the club's existing home at Earls High School was described as critical to the club's future and was to be paid for by the £281,000 grant awarded by British Gymnastics in November.

But a breakdown in negotiations between the club and a prospective new landlord this week ended any chance of the 20-year lease being agreed – and sees the club lose the cash grant, which must be spent by the end of March.

Club chairman Jon Caulwell said the problems lay over an £80,000 deposit required for security of the site. He said: "It has been very very disappointing, we have literally been left at rock bottom at the very last moment. It is my job as chairman to start us up again, look for a new site and get chasing funding again."

## Fishing ban will be lifted

PLANS to lift a three-month fishing ban at a pool on the Dudley border have been rubber-stamped.

It is claimed the three-month closed season at Great Pool, in Himley Park, is leading to illegal fishing.

Councillor Tracey Wood, agreed to lift the ban, generally operating between mid-March and mid-June, temporarily for this year.

Councillor Wood said the move would allow officers to evaluate the impact of allowing year-round fishing in the pool and what happens to the number of suspected thefts.

● Charges – page 3

# TOWN'S RIVER TO GET BIG CLEAN-UP

by Sharon Marris

A BIG clean-up of the River Stour, which runs through Halesowen, is being planned by campaigners. The move comes in the wake of concerns that it has become a dumping ground for chemicals and filth.

They are appealing for ideas from local people about how to improve the river, which also flows through Stourbridge and into Kidderminster. The Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust hopes to breathe new life into the river that gives its name to Stourbridge. Spokesman Pip Bradley said the Stour was suffering pollution caused by careless disposal of everything from washing machine detergents to car wash chemicals.

She said: "People tend to put anything down the sink and just assume it goes to the sewer when, most of the time, it is going into the surface water drains and into the local water ways."

"Some people will even put paint down the sink thinking it will go down the sewer. We get all sorts of nasty things go down there."

Miss Bradley said most of the tiny animals and bugs that lived in and beside the river were those that could cope with the pollution.

But she said: "We want to increase the number of species that are not tolerant of the pollution and to do that we need to improve the water quality."

### Economic

"Living along the river are a whole host of water birds who would also benefit from cleaner water."

The Stour, which has played a large part in the region's economic history, is a major tributary to the River Severn and is about 25 miles long.

Miss Bradley said it was this close link with industry which had seen it struggle with pollution.

She added: "It's quite an old river now and we weren't always so hot on pollution issues back then. It wasn't called the Black Country for nothing."

"But now we're trying to take care of these issues a lot more."

Miss Bradley said there was no public consultation event but thoughts on the river or its possible improvement can be sent to her via [www.bbcwildlife.org.uk](http://www.bbcwildlife.org.uk) or by phoning 0779 107 0991 before March 14. She will then produce a report based on the ideas and present this to the Environment Agency.

## Jobs at risk as hospital cuts laundry

UP to 14 jobs are at risk under plans to axe the staff uniform laundry service as part of cost-cutting measures at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital, it has emerged.

Staff are being asked to wash their own uniforms instead as bosses bid to trim £15 million off their budgets by March next year.

It comes as up to 64 positions are also under threat as part of proposals to reduce the opening hours of the canteen. The proposal to axe the laundry service for staff uniforms will save the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust £63,000 per year.

Unison, which represents workers at the hospital, said up to 14 jobs could be under threat. The union's regional organiser Tracy Wood said: "We have been told they are looking to reduce the laundry staff and we are in consultation. It's very sad times and very hard for the workers whose jobs are under threat."

Interserve have confirmed a 30-day consultation was underway with laundry staff as well as the canteen workers but said it was too early to confirm exactly how many jobs would be lost.

Chief executive Paula Clark said: "The Trust has taken the decision to stop this laundry service from April 1. This brings The Dudley Group in line with many other NHS trusts."

● Charges – page 3

Whether you or your loved ones need only an hour a week or full time attention, our care packages can be tailored to suit your specific needs.



OUR AIM is to aid our clients in their own homes to maintain their independence, self worth and dignity.

- Bespoke Home Care Services
- Temporary Respite Care
- Short Term Recovery Care

Specialist in Dementia care and mental health

Call today for an informal chat

and feel the weight being lifted



WE TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING

- PERSONAL CARE
- PROMPT MEDICATION
- HOUSEHOLD TASKS
- MEALS AND MORE

*Stiled* *H*ome *S*ervices

**NEWS****CONTENTS**

Peter Rhodes	4
Letters	7
Memory Lane	10
Club News	14
Puzzle Page	28
TV Listings	25-27
Property	28-30
Motoring	31-33
Classified	34-38
Sport	39-40

**CONTACT US**

Have you got a story or an event you want covered? The Chronicle and the Express & Star have a team of reporters covering Halesowen who can help:

**Tom Mason:** 01902 319466  
tom.mason@expressandstar.co.uk  
**Charlotte Lilley:** 01902 319490  
charlotte.lilley@expressandstar.co.uk  
**Will Ackermann:** 01384 353213  
will.ackermann@expressandstar.co.uk  
**Heather Large:** 01384 353203  
heather.large@expressandstar.co.uk  
**Sharon Marris:** 01384 353209  
sharon.marris@expressandstar.co.uk  
**Louise Jew:** 01384 353201  
louise.jew@expressandstar.co.uk  
**Alex Ross:** 01384 353207  
alex.ross@expressandstar.co.uk  
**Andrew Turton:** 01384 353202  
andrew.turton@expressandstar.co.uk  
**Lee Watton:** 01384 353230  
lee.watton@expressandstar.co.uk

What's happening in your area? We are always keen to hear about any issues affecting you.

Email your information and pictures to dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

**Sports:** E-mail: chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk  
**Photographic John Sambrooks**  
Tel: 01902 319493

**Advertising:**

**Nikki Cope**  
Tel: 01902 319573 E-mail: n.cope@expressandstar.co.uk

**Emma Parkes**

Tel: 01384 353234 E-mail: e.parkes@expressandstar.co.uk

**Distribution: Paul Jones**

Tel: 01902 319990 E-mail: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

## HALESOWEN thechronicle

Queen Street  
Wolverhampton  
WV1 1ES

Open Monday to Friday 9am-1pm  
and 2pm-5pm

[www.yourchronicle.com](http://www.yourchronicle.com)

## ABLE BROMLEY CARPETS/BEDS

& FURNITURE/RUGS/VINYLS & LAMINATES

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DISCOUNT WAREHOUSE

DISABLED? OAP? CAN'T GET OUT?  
OR ANYONE WHO JUST NEEDS EXTRA HELP!

WE DO WHAT OTHER CARPET FIRMS WON'T Remove and take away old carpets/beds Move heavy furniture and shave doors PLUS FREE FITTING ON ALL CARPETS when purchasing our underlay.

Terms and conditions apply.

Click on-line for many great prices [www.ablecarpets.co.uk](http://www.ablecarpets.co.uk)

80/20 Wool Twists from £8.99 sq yd Quality Wiltons only £14.99 sq yd

Divan Beds Single from £96 Double from £160 Quality Double Memory Foam bed RRP Was £999 £397

Warehouse Unit D Dormston Trading Est. Burton Road, Gornal DY1 2UF  
Open: Mon-Sat 9.30-5.00 Call anytime between  
**Freephone 0800 0853747** **01902 880541**

Dudley, Halesowen, Stourbridge,  
Kinshurst, Wednesbury, Kingswinford, Pedmore, Kinnerton, Worsley, Pensnett, Gornal, Hagley

Up to 75% OFF  
We will beat your BIG Superstores

# Almost 90 per cent get first school

CLOSE to nine out of 10 pupils in Dudley have landed their first-choice secondary school place this year. Council chiefs said 89 per cent of pupils will get their first preference, which is an improvement on last year. Tens of thousands of children across the country have been finding out which school they will be going to in September. The number of pupils being

offered their top choice school in Dudley has increased slightly from 88 per cent last year to 89 per cent this year.

For the 2013 year there were a total of 3,206 secondary applications – this was down on last year's figure 3,258. Of those, around 2,853 have been offered their first choice for the September 2013 year. This compares to 2,867 applications last year. Dudley Council spokesman Phil

Parker said this year 98 per cent of pupils received a place at one of their top three choice schools.

Meanwhile in Sandwell around 80 per cent of pupils will get their first preference.

For the 2013 year there were 4,503 secondary applications that included a Sandwell school as a preference. Of those, a total of 3,476 applications listed a Sandwell school as a first preference and of those,

2,743 were offered. This compares to 4,543 applications for the September 2012 year that included Sandwell school as a preference.

Of those, there were 3,699 first preferences for a place in a Sandwell school and out of those, 2,731 were offered – 73.83 per cent.

Figures released in October last year revealed that more than 3,000 parents in the Black Country and Staffordshire lodged appeals.

# Lovers are sentenced to life for murder

A VICE girl and her boyfriend have been jailed for life for the torture and murder of a businessman for his money.

Judge Simon Tonking jailed Emma Bate and Paramjit Singh for the murder of former Stourbridge businessman Richard Sherratt.

Bate and Singh killed the 57-year-old father-of-three during a midnight robbery at his home in Bridgnorth.

The raid was planned by Bate to raise cash to pay off debts run up because of her drug addiction.

Mr Sherratt, who used to live in Kinver and Stourbridge, died within an hour of the attack. He suffered 38 injuries, including five blows to the head, a stab wound to his arm and puncture marks to his face and neck.

Judge Tonking told Bate she would serve a minimum of 25 years for the murder, and Singh was ordered to serve at least 18 years. They were also given 10 years, each to run concurrently, for robbery.

Mr Tonking told the pair: "Having left Richard Sherratt injured on his bed surrounded by his own blood, both of you were indifferent about his fate."

# Yeltz snaps on display

PROMOTION-chasing Halesowen Town are trying to catch the eye off the field as well.

Throughout March, the club's official photographer Steve Evans – father of goal-keeper Paul – has a selection of his Yeltz photographs on show in the library at Halesowen Cornbow Centre.

There is also a collection of stock from the club shop. The library opens from 9am-7pm Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm on Saturdays and 10am-2pm on Sundays. Visit [www.hfc.com/matchday-a-news/latest-news/2473-yeltz-on-display.html](http://www.hfc.com/matchday-a-news/latest-news/2473-yeltz-on-display.html).

# Plans for office

PLANS to convert a vacant office block in Dudley into flats will go before councilors next week.

Regal Invest LLP has submitted proposals for Nexus House in The Broadway.

The scheme will be discussed by the development control committee on March 11.

# Pupils plant for park's future



Teacher Liz Cole and Justin Corfield, from Dudley Council's Green Care, with pupils from Lutley Primary School who helped to plant trees which will form an avenue

PUPILS have helped plant a new generation of trees in a Halesowen park creating a feature for visitors.

When fully-grown, it is hoped the trees will create an avenue inside Huntingtree Park at the Thornhill Road entrance.

The Year 5 pupils from Lutley Primary School were invited to take part by members of the Friends of Huntingtree Park group.

Group members say the lime and hornbeam trees, which border the path to entrance, are among a range of improvements planned.

The children were also given information packs about the trees by Dudley council Green Care staff.

# FOOTWORKS Chiropody Clinic

- Full range of services with disabled friendly access
  - Nail Cutting and Trimming
  - Diabetic Footcare
  - Corns and Calluses
- 01384 413444**

201-203 Halesowen Road, Old Hill B64 6HE  
[www.footworkschiropracists.co.uk](http://www.footworkschiropracists.co.uk)

# Broken Dentures?

\*\*\*\*\*  
1 hour denture repair service

New Dentures available & made at...

The Dental Shop Est. 1981

**01384 413444**

201-203 Halesowen Road, Old Hill, W. Mids. B64 6HE  
[www.the-dental-shop.co.uk](http://www.the-dental-shop.co.uk)

## Calls for chapel to be bigger

COUNCIL funding to improve Stourbridge Crematorium has been welcomed – but ward councillors say they still want more to be done.

At a full Dudley Council meeting, members agreed to a proposed capital funding budget, which included £68,000 to be spent on bringing the crematorium up to current standards.

The work will see Dudley Council, the crematorium's operator, upgrade equipment and refurbish the chapel.

But Councillor Elizabeth Walker said more needed to be spent on increasing the capacity of the chapel to stop people having to stand outside during services. She said: "It is extremely difficult to address the whole assembly at a funeral when many people are stood outside."

"We really need to look at increasing the capacity, as well as the work planned."

Councillor David Caunt said: "It has been my misfortune to visit services at Stourbridge Crematorium.

"It strikes me that the money put forward is not enough – this is a big project. I wonder if we could create more space within the chapel."

## New service for housing

A NEW housing support service has been set up for residents in Dudley. The council's housing department is running a drop-in service.

In Halesowen sessions are held at the Hope Centre, Block 11, Andrew Road, Halesowen on Wednesdays from 10am until noon. In Brierley Hill at the housing office, Yeovil Court, Brierley Hill on Thursdays from 10am until noon. In Stourbridge sessions are held at Stourbridge Library, Market Street, Stourbridge on Thursdays from 1.30pm until 3.30pm.

## Talking dramas

A WORLD famous playwright will be coming to a village near Stourbridge to talk about one of his latest plays.

David Edgar, aged 65, will talk to Belbroughton History Society at the village's church hall on March 20, starting at 8pm. One of his most recent works is called Written on the Heart. Admission to the event is £2.50.

# Russells Hall parking fees to rise in cutbacks

PARKING charges will rise and canteen opening hours will be slashed as part of cost-cutting measures at Dudley's three sites.

Staff will also be asked to wash their uniforms at home rather than use the hospital trust's laundry service, which is being axed. Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which runs the sites, including Russells Hall Hospital, needs to save £15 million by March 2014.

Bosses say proposals to increase car park fees will bring in more than £300,000 a year, which can be spent on clinical ser-

vices. It means from April it will cost £5.50 to park for more than three hours – up from £5.40.

Free parking time has been cut from 30 to 10 minutes and it will now cost £1 to park for up to 30 minutes, when previously there had been no charge.

Under the plans, parking for up to an hour will be increased to £2 from £1.30.

The fee for up to one and a half hours will be £3 – up from £1.90 and the cost of parking for up to three hours will rise to £4 from £3.20.

Parking fees were last increased in

August 2011. Chief executive Paula Clark said: "We do not take decisions to increase charges to patients lightly and this brings the cost of our parking in line with many other trusts locally."

Plans to scale-back the canteen opening hours at Russells Hall, including closing it at weekends, will save the hospital trust £110,000 per year.

Staff are being consulted on the move which has put up to 64 jobs at risk.

Union bosses have spoken out against the move and have vowed to work the hospital to "minimise job losses". Hospital

bosses say the move follows a reduction in customers. Under the proposals, the canteen would only be open between 7am and 2.30pm Monday to Friday.

It is currently open between 7am and 8pm each day. The Costa Coffee branch will not be affected by the changes.

Ms Clark said: "Any decisions to reduce services or facilities that we provide are very difficult to make but, as our commitment to providing the highest standard of care for patients remains our highest priority, we feel it is better to make savings from non clinical services."

## NEWS in brief

### Weapons found with drugs in raid

A CANNABIS factory, samurai sword, knuckle duster and gas-powered firearm was found as a home was raided over suspected animal cruelty.

Six dogs were taken away by the RSPCA from a Derbyshire, Dudley. A 31-year-old was arrested and bailed for further investigations.

PC Ian Priest said suspected drugs and three offensive weapons had been seized.

Anyone suspecting drug use or suspicious activity should call police on 101.

### Volunteers to aid hospice sought

A RECRUITMENT drive for volunteers to help provide valuable care for patients at Kemp Hospice in Kidderminster has been launched.

The hospice has recently expanded to provide bereavement support for adults and children living in the Wyre Forest district. Now qualified therapists are being sought to give help in their spare time to the day hospice.

Anyone wanting more information on the services can call 01562 756000.

### MP is backing metal theft law

WYRE Forest MP Mark Garnier has backed plans for new laws aimed at reducing the scourge of metal theft which is growing throughout the district and nationally.

He has welcomed the Scrap Metal Dealers Bill which has passed its final reading in the House of Commons and which is expected to come into effect by Easter, once it receives Royal Assent.

### Luxury homes work is started

CONSTRUCTION work for 14 five-bedroomed executive homes has begun on a former reservoir site.

The 4.1 acre site at Sutton Park Road, Kidderminster has been sold by Severn Trent Water to leading housebuilding David Wilson Homes Mercia.

### Man is hurt in fall

A MAN suffered serious injuries through falling from a roof in Halesowen. The man, believed to be in his 20s, fell in Long Lane. He had a fractured leg and suspected fractured pelvis.

## Hope of £20,000 on statue

A DUDLEY auctioneers says a lead statue fund in undergrowth in a garden may fetch as much as £20,000.

Antiques expert Mark Hannam, senior valuer at Fieldings auctioneers, Stourbridge, told of the "heart-stopping moment" when he found it in undergrowth in a North Worcestershire family's garden.

The 4ft tall, Georgian-style one-and-a-half-tonne statue – called Dryad and Boar – was bought by the family in the 1960s for £200 but Mr Hannam values it at £4,000–£6,000 and says it may well fetch up to £20,000.

It bears the stamp of the Bromsgrove Guild, an arts movement of skilled craftsmen, and depicts a boy hunter attacking a wild boar.

When the owner of the detached country home, between Bromsgrove and Worcester, died in November, Mr Hannam went to the site and made the find, to be auctioned at Fieldings on March 9.

The Bromsgrove Guild, founded by Walter Gilbert in 1898, was based on principles of the Arts and Crafts movement.

Other works include the statue of Hygieia at Chequers, the Prime Minister's country residence.



Senior valuer Mark Hannam with the statue which could sell for at least £20,000

## DAVID WITHERS BUTCHERS

Established 1990

FROM FIELD TO PLATE WITH COMPLETE INTEGRITY IN THE SUPPLY CHAIN

BUY LOCAL FOR THIS MOTHERS DAY  
ALL OUR MEAT IS ALL LOCALLY FARMED

- ◆ Pork and Flavoured Sausages
- ◆ Award Winning Pork Pies
- ◆ Hot Eating Pies and Pasties
- ◆ Homemade Burgers
- ◆ Home Reared Beef
- ◆ Home Reared Lamb
- ◆ Locally Sourced Pork
- ◆ Range of Cold Cooked Meats

ASK ABOUT OUR SAVERS CLUB - SPREAD THE COSTS

1 St Kenelms Road, Romsley B62 0NU ☎ 01562 710422

## PROFESSIONAL CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING


Meet Adrian, the manager of Professional Carpet and Upholstery Cleaning. He has over 20 years experience of cleaning, repairs and fitting carpets. He also cleans upholstery as well as leather, home and office. No job too big or small. Technician Woolsafe Accredited

Telephone anytime for a free quotation  
Covering all  
Stourbridge, Dudley &  
Halesowen areas

TEL: 01384 444022  
or 0121 585 6591

## M & H FIREPLACES

RETAILER OF THE YEAR 2002-2003 Valor



OPEN 5 DAYS. CLOSED WEDNESDAY & SUNDAY

Visit our showroom at:  
Forge Lane, Cradley Heath, Halesowen, B64 5AL  
(Opposite Cradley Bus and Train Station)  
Telephone: 01384 345400

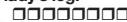
## NEWS

**THE BEST  
OF PETER  
RHODES**

AN AUSTRALIAN billionaire, Clive Palmer, has unveiled plans to build a new liner identical to the ill-fated Titanic. Rumour has it the Canadians are working on a replica iceberg.



TWENTY years from now, with a power cut every day, our seas fished to extinction and our sovereignty eroded to the state where young British men are conscripted into an EU army to fight in Africa, our grandchildren will ask, what were the politicians doing back in 2013? And we will have to tell them that instead of planning for the future or looking after this nation's interests, they were spending an awful lot of time trying to find out whether a lord had put his hand on a lady's leg.



SPOT the difference. A reporter who exposes your political enemy as a bounder is an investigative journalist in the finest traditions of the profession. A reporter who exposes scandals in your own political party is, if I may quote Nick Clegg, "a self-appointed detective." As a general rule, beware of any politician who says: "I believe in a free Press," and then adds the word "but."



**WAG!** the magazine of the Dogs Trust, has a feature in its Spring edition on preparing tasty meals for pooches. It is headlined: The Great British Bark Off.



ANYONE who did National Service will recognise the process by which the Pope is being eased out of the Vatican. It is Benedict's demob day, the moment when he hands in all the kit that goes with uniformed service and picks up a new thirty-bob suit to see him into civvy street. "Right, your Holiness. Sign here for one cloak (white), one hat (ex-papal) and one pair brogues (leather, brown). Oi, Mr Emeritus! Where d'you think you're going with them red shoes?"

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes  
every Monday to Friday in  
your Express & Star**

# Family admit to cruelty over neglected horses

A FAMILY of three has admitted cruelty to four horses in Dudley in what the RSPCA has described as "a serious case of neglect".

The mother, father and their son were accused of more than 50 charges in relation to horses being kept at Fens Pool Nature Reserve in Pensnett, Brierley Hill. Walter Hickman, aged 52, admitted 20 charges while his wife Amanda, aged 49, admitted 16. Their son Kevin, aged 23, pleaded guilty to 18 charges. A further four charges were later dropped by the RSPCA.

RSPCA chiefs said they were pleased the family had acknowledged their responsibility to the animals kept at Fens Pool. All four horses have survived despite their ordeal.

Concerns have been raised over the welfare of horses grazing on land at the beauty spot. Dudley Council is working with the RSPCA and West Midlands Police on a scheme to remove any animals found wandering into nearby roads and also ensuring horses on the reserve are healthy.

Full details about the case have yet to emerge in court but charges reveal the trio, of Wallows Road in Brierley Hill, were accused of causing unnecessary suffering to four horses between them.

The horses had been kept at Fens Pool Nature Reserve between November 2 and December 22 in 2011.

Amanda and Kevin Hickman appeared at Dudley Magistrates' Court on February 26 for trial but at the last minute they entered guilty pleas.

Walter Hickman was unable to attend because he had been taken to hospital during the weekend. All three were bailed unconditionally while a pre-sentence report is prepared.

They will be sentenced on March 20.



One of the horses that was badly neglected at Fens Pool Nature Reserve



Amanda Hickman admitted 16 charges



Kevin Hickman admitted 18 charges

## Society in return to national lending

DUDLEY Building Society has returned to nationwide lending with the launch of a variety of new offers for home owners and buyers.

The society based, in Stone Street, had imposed geographical lending, restricting products to local customers. This has now been lifted as it looks to increase mortgage lending.

The offers include the Dudley's new two-year discounted rate deal at 2.29 per cent.

Maximum loan to value is 75 per cent and an arrangement fee of £995 is payable.

The discounted rate is available for both home purchase and remortgage – with the added attraction of free legal fees and free valuation for borrowers who want to remortgage.

Dudley Building Society chief executive Jeremy Wood said: "Up until relatively recently we were a little concerned that we did not want to be flooded out and deal with large volumes, but the market has changed significantly."

## Prescriptions up

PRESCRIPTION charges in Dudley will rise 20p to £7.85 under changes announced by the Government. The 2.5 per cent rise starts April 1.

Health Minister Earl Howe said NHS dental charges will also increase on the same date. Those exempt from charges in England include children under 16.



**SALE NOW ON  
UP TO 50% OFF**  
on selected suites only

## QUALITY & COMFORT



Handmade suites to suit all Budgets

Broadcote Ind Est., Unit 4, Station Road, Old Hill B64 6NT

**HOME VISITS FOR DISABILITY CHAIRS AVAILABLE**

**0121 559 3057**

**GRANTS Bookkeeping Services**

Open 7 days per week 9am - 9pm

### "MIDDLE MAN SERVICE"

LET US PREPARE YOUR ACCOUNTS FOR YOU.  
READY TO PRESENT TO YOUR ACCOUNTANT.  
SAVE MONEY AND TIME.

- Accounts Preparation
- Self Assessment
- VAT • P.A.Y.E. • Bookkeeping

30 Years in Business

Call 01384 568013

Email: grantwillets@btinternet.com

## Bridal Designs

Weddings & Bridesmaids  
Made To Order

NOW IN STOCK PROM 2013

Select from our unique range of designs or design your own choosing from a range of colours and materials

Also available  
Jewellery, Tiaras,  
Veils, Bags etc

Dress Alteration  
Service

DESIGNING GOWNS  
FOR OVER 30 YEARS

Tel 0121 561 4411  
7 Birmingham Road  
Rowley Regis  
B65 9BL



**QUALITY COACH HOLIDAYS  
THROUGHOUT BRITAIN & EUROPE**



**"NEW FREEPHONE NUMBER"  
0800 002 9788**

### SPRINGTIME IN BRUGGE

Sun 21st - Wed 24th April 2013  
£295.00 pp

- \* 4 STAR HOTEL IN CENTRAL BRUGGE
- \* 3 NIGHTS BED AND BUFFET BREAKFAST

\* FULL DAY IN BRUGGE & A VISIT TO YPRES  
\* EXTRA COMFORT COACH SEATS & EXTRA LEGROOM

### FORTHCOMING HOLIDAYS

**MARCH**  
11th - 15th LLANDUDNO & NORTH WALES COAST £265.00  
23rd - 24th SCENIC SETTLE - CARLISLE RAILWAY £99.50  
25th - 29th EXCLUSIVE RESORT OF SANDBANKS £319.50  
29th - 1st Apr EASTER IN PARIS & MONET GARDEN £259.50

**APRIL**  
1st - 5th LINCOLNSHIRE DELIGHTS £249.50  
2nd - 6th ISLE OF WIGHT £278.50  
8th - 12th WESTON-SUPER-MARE £249.50  
8th - 12th ENCHANTING EASTBOURNE £269.50  
10th - 14th REGENCY SIDMOUTH - JURASSIC COAST £345.00  
14th - 18th DORSET & SWANSEA RIVER & RAIL £325.00  
15th - 18th NORTHUMBRIAN COAST £225.00  
15th - 19th CORNWALL'S ST IVES £259.50  
20th - 21st SOMERSET STEAM RAILWAY £119.50  
20th - 21st SOUTHAMPTON'S TITANIC STORY £109.50  
22nd - 26th ORY STATION - ISLE OF WIGHT £135.00  
27th - 28th TOWER OF LONDON & HAMPTON COURT £299.50  
29th - 3 May SOUTHPORT & BLACKPOOL £299.50  
29th - 3 May TORQUAY £249.50

**MAY**  
3rd - 5th SPALDING FLOWER SHOW £159.50  
6th - 10th FLORAL HARROGATE £355.00  
6th - 10th SCENIC SCOTLAND £270.50  
11th - 12th SCENIC SETTLE - CARLISLE RAILWAY £219.50  
11th - 12th ROYAL SANDRINGHAM HOUSE £109.50

LONDON THEATRE WEEKENDS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR  
STARTING FROM £135.00 PP

- ♦ LUXURY COACH TRAVEL WITH JUST 42 SEATS
- ♦ 4 STAR HOTEL WITH BED & ENGLISH BREAKFAST
- ♦ SAT NIGHT THEATRE TICKET TO ALL THE TOP SHOWS
- ♦ VISIT TO COVENT GARDEN ON SUNDAY MORNING

Phone For A Brochure Or See All Our Holidays & Day Tours On Our Website  
www.grouptavel.ltd.uk

GROUP TRAVEL HOUSE, Audnam, Stourbridge, DY8 4AG Tel : 0800 002 9788



## New rights on bids for buildings

COMMUNITY and voluntary groups will have the right to bid to take over council-owned buildings and land in Dudley, under new plans to give residents a say in how their communities are run.

A register of properties or available assets such as youth or community centres will be held by the council.

Organisations will be able to put together a business plan for leasing the properties. Council leader David Sparks said the proposals would enable residents to have a bigger role in how their communities are run.

There also plans for the council to keep a list of privately owned sites.

Under the Localism Act 2011, groups will have the right to bid for the property.

Councillor Sparks said: "It's all about giving people more influence on what is happening in their community."

Councillor Gaye Partridge, added: "The community asset transfer programme offers the chance to manage council owned properties. The second scheme, assets of community value, gives a legal right to bid for publicly or privately owned buildings or land."

## Pc death hearing

An inquest has been opened into the death of a Smethwick police officer who died after a disturbance outside a Wolverhampton bar. The coroner's court was told Pc Chris Findley died as a result of a brain injury after hitting his head on the pavement on January 28.

# Teacher given life ban over indecent images of children

A TEACHER from Dudley has been banned from UK classrooms for life after being jailed for having hundreds of indecent images and videos of children on his computer.

Gregory Worwood taught history at St Edmund's Catholic School, Wolverhampton where he was arrested in September 2011. The 26-year-old, of Himley Road, Dudley, was jailed for 18 months and told to sign the sex offenders register for 10 years last July.

Now Education Secretary Michael Gove has backed a recommendation from a Teaching Agency disciplinary panel that Worwood, formerly of Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton, should be struck off.

## Concern over stray horses

STRAY horses, known as fly grazers, roaming the region could be ending up in the food chain of farmers.

The concerns were announced on the same day that furniture giant Ikea announced it is withdrawing wiener sausages in Britain, France, Spain, Ireland and Portugal after tests confirmed "a few indications of horse meat".

Farming bosses have now called for stricter control on "shambolic" horse meat scandals and Tesco announced it will source more of its meat from the UK. The move comes two days after it withdrew Swedish meatballs from stores across Europe, Asia and the Caribbean.

Farmers are concerned the horses, known as fly grazers, are being shipped across the border to abattoirs on the continent using forged passports.

There are worries these fly grazers could include horses that are left to roam on land, or tethered, in Tipton. Sandwell councillor Derek Rowley said: "There are foals in Tipton and when they are six months old they mysteriously go missing, and they have done for years."

Mr Gove said: "This is clearly a very serious case and one which shows Mr Worwood has very seriously breached the standard of behaviour expected of a teacher. It is in the public interest that Mr Worwood be prohibited from teaching. Moreover, in the light of the seriousness of the offences, there should be no review period."

The decision means Worwood is banned from teaching indefinitely in any school, sixth form college, relevant youth accommodation or children's home in England, although he has a right of appeal to the High Court.

### Serious

Wolverhampton Crown Court was told last July that Worwood uploaded some images and movies on to a file-sharing website. He had more than 700 images and movies of children, with 15 films classed as the most serious category. He had pleaded guilty to nine charges of possessing indecent images and one of distribution.

Passing sentence, Judge Martin Walsh told him: "You had absolutely no control over where the images went. They are images of real children being subjected to real abuse." None of the images or films involved pupils from St Edmund's.

The Teaching Agency disciplinary panel has given its findings into the case, saying: "Mr Worwood, in behaving in this way, fell far below the personal and professional standards the public expect teachers to observe. By behaving as he did, Mr Worwood has undermined public confidence in the profession."

## The text message millionaires



Robin and Christine Kiddie celebrate winning £2,299,421

IT was a simple text message which told the family of Cradley Heath sales manager Robin Kiddie that they were millionaires.

In fact it he had won £6.3 million on the National Lottery.

Mr Kiddie, a commercial and export sales manager at Cradley Heath company Kingfisher Industrial, said he was still trying to get his head around the huge win.

The 60-year-old and his wife Christine were officially unveiled as jackpot winners – and revealed plans to splash out on a Mercedes.

The pair, who live in Ludlow, Shropshire, won £6,299,421 in the February 22 draw. The couple, who won the cash as part of a six-strong family syndicate, picked their numbers through a combination of birthdays and old pools numbers. They did not realise they had won the jackpot until the following Monday.

Mr Kiddie then sent a text to his children stating: "Good news, I have just won £6.3 million on the lottery."

Mr Kiddie has said he now plans to retire, while Mrs Kiddie is yet to decide whether she will continue to work as a bank nurse at Ludlow Hospital.

## NEWS in brief

### Start of parking scheme in town

A NEW parking scheme which has been introduced in Brierley Hill High Street aims to reduce traffic delays, the borough's transport boss said.

Parking and waiting restrictions will come into force, marking the final stage of a congestion-busting multi-million pound scheme.

Four new bays allowing people to park along the street will be introduced.

Four separate disabled parking areas will also be created near Brierley Hill Police Station.

### Cricket student is now on board

A SPORTS coaching student from Stourbridge has been recruited by the Worcestershire County Cricket Board.

Katie Blunt, aged 20, will work as a cricket development coach. The third-year student at the University of Worcester will help create and run cricket coaching programmes to primary and secondary schools. Katie started coaching at 16, having practiced the sport from the age of seven.

### Legal changes on surveillance

CHANGES in legislation governing surveillance used by local authorities could thwart attempts by councils to clamp down on fly-tippers. Councillor Marcus Hart of Wyre Forest has warned.

# RYDALE

CELEBRATING OVER 28 YEARS



### RYDALE SERVICES

WINDOW & DOOR REPAIRS

### CONSERVATORY REPAIR SPECIALISTS

- LOCKS
- SEALANT
- SEALED UNITS
- HANDLES
- FASCIA & GASKETS
- GUTTERING

Telephone: 0121 559 4211  
Long Lane, Blackheath, Halesowen  
[www.rydalewindows.co.uk](http://www.rydalewindows.co.uk)

### SUPPLY ONLY WINDOWS & CONSERVATORIES

MASSIVE DISCOUNTS

**MASSIVE DISCOUNT ON ALL ORDERS PLACED NOW FOR MARCH INSTALLATION**

You are invited to visit one of the largest Conservatory and Window Showrooms in the UK

### WINDOWS & CONSERVATORIES, PORCHES ORANGERIES, FASCIAS & SOFFIT BOARDS

- SUPPLIED & FITTED TO ALL AREAS•
- ACROSS THE MIDLANDS •

### FINANCE AVAILABLE

#### Window, Conservatory, Porch, Fascia & Soffit News

How has Rydale built up an excellent reputation?

It's simple, customers satisfaction and quality. The quality of Rydale's product, the quality of all Rydale personnel and the unbeatable service given to the public is second to none. No wonder Rydale has so many satisfied customers, just look at the facts. Every window and conservatory is custom made to the most rigorous quality standards you will find in the industry.

No other company in the area has more experience and know how than Rydale, that's why we have been in business for more than 28 years. Rydale Windows security features make our windows super safe. You have a wide range of products on display at our purpose built 40,000 sq ft showrooms and factories situated in Long Lane, Halesowen.

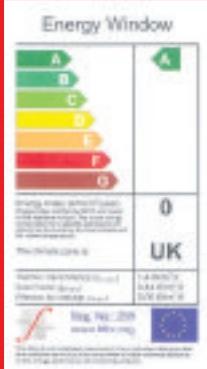
Our window and conservatory advisors are available in our showrooms weekdays from 9.00 am to 5.30 pm and Saturday 9.00 am to 4.00 pm. At Rydale we feel that is very important to see products on display before you make your final decision to purchase.

We invite you to come into our showrooms to view all our products available, the showrooms are here for you the customer.

At Rydale we do not take any deposits or start payment. You only pay when the installation has been completed. Rydale has been a trusted brand in our area for over 28 years. If we give you a guarantee we will always be here to honour it. Can that be said of any other company in the area? Rydale also offer a Supply Only service on all products including free delivery.

AT RYDALE WE CARE ABOUT THE CUSTOMER, SPEND YOUR MONEY WISELY.

VISIT OUR SHOWROOMS, WE ARE HERE FOR YOU THE CUSTOMER



### WINTER SALE NOW ON

Visit our Showroom & Factories for immediate quotations



Open weekdays 9am to 5.30pm, Sat 9am to 4pm, Sun CLOSED.

**FREEPHONE : 0800 917 6060**

Long Lane, Blackheath, Halesowen, B62 9LS

[www.rydalewindows.co.uk](http://www.rydalewindows.co.uk)



## NEWS FEATURE



AT the moment our towns and cities need all the help they can get, so it is heartening to see that a vacant unit in one struggling town centre is about to be converted into a bistro.

And very nice it looks too. But given that the bistro in question is in the heart of the Black Country, I'm not too sure about the name.

The Crepe Station. Am I the only one who sees a problem with this? ☐☐☐☐☐

A SAD story about the couple who got divorced following a row about the wife's map-reading skills during a wine-tasting tour of France.

It makes you wonder whether, 50 years from now, golden wedding couples will be citing a good sat-nav system as the key to a long and happy marriage. Indeed, in today's technology-obsessed society, there are probably some who would consider their sat-nav to make the perfect spouse.

While it doesn't listen to you and gives out instructions in a hectoring tone, you can at least turn the sound off when it gets annoying.

And then, when you find yourself lost in some farmer's field miles from where you are meant to be, you turn it back on, without having to admit it was right all along. ☐☐☐☐☐

FACED with the worst shop vacancy rate in the country, it is good to see that civic leaders in Dudley are fighting back.

Investing £150,000 in car parks sounds like good news, particularly given that some of the money will be spent on repairing potholes. Oh, and they will also benefit from "upgraded" pay-and-display machines.

New pay-and-display meters. That's sure to get the punters flocking back. ☐☐☐☐☐

LET'S get this right. Britain lost its AAA credit rating because the economy is riddled with debt. The Government is drowning in debt after years of living beyond its means, the general public is drowning in debt, with thousands of families struggling to meet their commitments. And the banks were drowning in debt until they were bailed out by the Government which is also drowning in debt.

But don't worry, the Bank of England has a radical solution. "Negative interest rates", in other words charging the banks (which we are financing) interest on their cash deposits (which belong to us) in order to encourage them to lend more of our money back to us, creating even more debt.

Sometimes there's a lot to be said for being a simple Black Country 'mon'.



George as a choirboy



George receiving a certificate of merit from Chief constable Edward Crew of West Midlands Police



George in the Royal Marines

# Scouts have lost an 'exceptional' leader

**George Cox MBE, who was dedicated to the Scouts, has died aged 89, HEATHER LARGE looks back over his life**

**TRIBUTES have been paid to an "exceptional" scout leader who has died after more than five decades of service.**

George Cox, who was awarded an MBE for his work in the community in Sedgley, was 89.

The former Royal Marine had worked tirelessly for 1st Sedgley Scout Group since the 1960s which included fundraising for a headquarters as members were using makeshift rented accommodation.

His dream became reality with the opening of a new building in 1977 and it is still used today by the scouts and other community groups, including 1st Sedgley Morris Men of which he was an honorary member.

Cox's Folly stands proud in the grounds in recognition of his legacy.

## Retiring

After retiring from scout leadership, he remained an active member of the Scout Active Support Unit and voluntary caretaker at Jubilee Scout Hall - the building he worked so hard to create.

Vice-chairman of 1st Sedgley Scout Group, David Baugh said: "Typically he could always be found behind the scenes or in the kitchen helping run events: bedding plant sales, Burn's nights, May fayres, coffee mornings and open nights. It gave him immense satisfaction to see the building well-maintained and being used by young and old."

In recognition to his commitment to Scouting, he was awarded the Medal of Meritorious Conduct by the Scout Association in 1985 and in 2003 the Silver Acorn for "distinguished service". In



David Baugh, vice-chairman of 1st Sedgley Scout Group and George Cox at Cox's Folly built in honour of him to carry on his legacy in the scouts

1993 Mr Cox researched and published a book on the history of 1st Sedgley Scout Group from 1910 and he planted a commemorative tree in the Scout grounds in 2007 to mark 100 years of

tifying and recording war memorials. George recruited volunteers to help and more than 60 previously unrecorded memorials have so far been identified in this ongoing exercise.

George has visited them all and painstakingly recorded every detail of their design, insignia and rolls of honour. In 1993 George accepted an invitation to serve as a Trustee to the

Imperial War Museum for help in iden-

tifying and recording war memorials.

George recruited volunteers to help and more than 60 previously unrecorded memorials have so far been identified in this ongoing exercise.

George has visited them all and painstakingly recorded every detail of their design, insignia and rolls of honour. In 1993 George accepted an invitation to serve as a Trustee to the

Imperial War Museum for help in iden-

Museum of the Ancient Manor of Sedgley. His other community work included a long-standing role in the Neighbourhood Watch scheme and even at the age of 86 he was helping to take elderly residents to hospital appointments or to the Post Office to collect their pensions.

He would also a weekly run collecting and delivering groceries for the elderly or infirm.

George also developed the local area Neighbourhood Watch scheme into a community service which provided DIY to residents, home help for the elderly, a reputable traders directory and an emergency call-out list.

He also developed a road safety training scheme for youngsters and arranged with the fire service to install smoke detectors into the homes of the elderly.

## Outstanding

In 2004 George became the first recipient of The Frank Foley Award for Outstanding Services to the Community, in Dudley which was presented by the then Mayor of Dudley, Rosemary Tomkinson.

George also organised a used stamp pulldown in more than one million which were used by charitable organisations for resale beneficiaries included, St Johns Ambulance, RNLI, Cancer Research, Oxfam, Guide Dogs for the Blind, The British Kidney Association, Children's Liver Diseases Foundation, Action Heart, Leprosy Association, Arthritis Association, The Snowdrop Appeal and Charities for Children.

Mr Cox, who served with the Royal Marines between 1942 and 1946, was a manager at paint manufacturers Mander Brothers in Wolverhampton for 41 years.

He leaves his wife Josephine, two sons Andrew and Stephen, grandson Mark and granddaughter Elisabeth.

Paying tribute, Mr Baugh, said Mr Cox has been "an exceptional man, a true friend and scout."

## THROUGH THE YEARS

### 1983...

A WALSALL churchman's wife celebrated a very special holy trinity after giving birth to her third son with the same birthday.

Mrs Lilian Green gave birth to a boy at Walsall Manor Hospital on March 6 1983, having previously had Geoffrey on the same date in 1978 and Joseph in 1980.

A WOLVERHAMPTON church threatened with demolition reopened after a £220,000 facelift.

The congregation returned to the Darlington Street Methodist church for a service to celebrate the completion of.

NEARLY 400 people queued for just 36 jobs at a Tipton foundry after workers forced recruitment by banning overtime. The line-up started at dawn at Beans Foundry in Hurst Lane, just hours after shopfloor jobs were up on the noticeboard.

### 1993....

WOLVES slumped to a 3-1 defeat at West Ham as the football world mourned the death of Bobby Moore.

The main gates and course at the ground were turned into a shrine for the star who had died days earlier.

STRIKING lecturers caused classes to be cancelled at colleges across the region.

Students were sent home from colleges across the region after hundreds of teaching staff walked out over proposed changes to contracts.

COUNCILLORS branded a two-year old boy a vandal after he left a trail of destruction in a remembrance garden near Wolverhampton.

The toddler was using a stick to remove the heads off daffodils. Codsall Parish Council agreed to write a letter of protest to the mother.

### 2003...

THREE jaguar limousines were custom-built by a specialist Black Country firm to protect Tony Blair from any possible terrorist attack.

The Government placed an order with S Mac'Neillie of Walsall to add £200,000 of James Bond style security devices to each of the vehicles.

A SIX-YEAR-OLD boy and his father were rescued from the chilly waters of a lake after their sailing dingy capsized. Two Wombourne police officers waded into Himley Lake, near Wolverhampton to rescue them.

TWO swimming pools at Wolverhampton's Health Town Leisure were closed, despite protests at a public meeting. The decision came after a report revealed more than £250,000 would have to be spent on structural work.



**Compass Tours by Rail**

### THE LAKELAND MOORLANDER

WEDNESDAY 1ST MAY (DAY EXCURSION BY CHARTER TRAIN)  
VIA ENGLAND'S MOST SCENIC LINE - THE SETTLE & CARLISLE ROUTE,  
BREAKING IN CARLISLE & RETURNING VIA THE CUMBRIAN COAST

WE RUN DIRECT FROM: KIDDERMINSTER, STOURBRIDGE JUNCTION, ROWLEY REGIS, TAME BRIDGE PARKWAY, WALSALL, CANNOCK, HEDNESFORD, RUGLEY & STAFFORD

Our comfortable charter train is routed via Pendle Hill, then the world famous Settle to Carlisle Railway featuring the 24 arches of Ribblehead viaduct, Dentdale and the Eden Valley (see [www.settle-carlisle.co.uk](http://www.settle-carlisle.co.uk)). Carlisle is home to a popular castle, as well as a great array of attractions, shops and places to eat. Our return journey is via the Cumbrian Coast, England's other most scenic railway (and the longest coastal railway in England). We journey via the Solway and Irish Sea, for many miles with the Lakeland Mountain in the East running via Whitehaven, St Bees, Ravenglass, Ulverston and Arnside to Carnforth. The same train returns you to boarding stations in the evening.

**TRAIN FARES:** £59 STANDARD CLASS (£44 for child under 16) & £99 FIRST CLASS (all ages)

**CALL 0151 722 1147 (10am-6pm weekdays) to book**

**FOR FURTHER DETAILS, JOINING OUR NEWSLETTER & ONLINE BOOKING visit us at [www.compasstoursontrain.co.uk](http://www.compasstoursontrain.co.uk)**

All tickets are booked subject to our booking conditions (see website or contact us for a copy). Postal Bookings & Correspondence to: Compass Tours, 46 Hallville Road, Liverpool, L18 0HR.

**Fly with Ferris**

**TOP HOTEL PACKAGE HOLIDAYS  
at LOW, LOW PRICES!**

•MALGRAT•SANTA SUSANNA•  
•PINEDA•LLORET•CALELLA•

**MAY & JUNE DEPARTURES**



**FLIGHTS FROM  
BIRMINGHAM  
AIRPORT**

**HALF BOARD  
7 NIGHTS  
FROM  
£279**

**ALL INCLUSIVE  
7 NIGHTS  
FROM  
£349**

**(OTHER DATES & DURATIONS  
AVAILABLE PLEASE ENQUIRE)**

**RING US FOR YOUR FREE BROCHURE**

Offers Subject to Brochure Terms and Conditions & Availability

**TEL: 01443 844222**

**www.ferrisfly.co.uk**

**DABTA DABTA**

**LIVE ON**

**Halesowen Fireplaces  
AT THE HEART OF YOUR HOME**

**Complete Fireplace Packages**

**from £499**

*(including fire)*



For a range of Gas and Electric Fires and Surrounds  
visit our showroom  
(opposite Kwik Fit on Long Lane)

Telephone 0121 559 9985

Unit 14, Long Lane Trading Estate,  
Long Lane, Halesowen B62 9LD  
[www.halesowenfireplaces.co.uk](http://www.halesowenfireplaces.co.uk)

**LETTERS**

# Hippodrome means regeneration

HOW predictable of Lowell Williams – Principal of Dudley College – to come out in favour of demolishing Dudley Hippodrome using the now somewhat tired argument that the building is a major eyesore in a highly visible and conspicuous gateway location.

The Friends of Dudley Hippodrome do not disagree that the current state of the building makes it less than attractive, but this view ignores the building's great potential.

The 1,752 seat theatre is the second largest in the whole Midlands and if it were in London's West End there

would be 36 theatres smaller than Dudley Hippodrome. Theatres open on average around 260 days a year, drawing many thousands of people to their town, many of whom arrive before the performance to park and dine, a proportion of whom stay on afterwards.

Also, afterwards the same visitors, many of whom would not otherwise have visited Dudley, would spread good word of mouth about the town. Doesn't this sound like regeneration? The Friends of Dudley Hippodrome all support the Zoo and Black Country Museum and want to work with both.

Theatre-going is a night-time activity which extends the visitor day and experience on from the Zoo and Museum's opening times. Lowell Williams claims to be investing £30m in Dudley. Dudley Hippodrome can be fully restored for between 10 and 20 per cent of that.

Perhaps he could care to demonstrate how a local college for local people can deliver the scale of regeneration that the Hippodrome can – for much less cost.

**GORDON DOWNING**  
Dibdale Road  
Dudley

## Smoking out truth of the tobacco industries

RE: the letter from Alan Peace (Feb25).

For the anti-smoking lobby to claim the tobacco industry has some sort of monopoly in exaggerating the truth is ridiculous.

The "truth" is of course nobody knows how much tobacco is smuggled into the UK but I would say the tobacco industry has a better idea than anyone else because it recognises fluctuations in its sales figures.

Whilst we are on "truths", how about the one where the Australian government stated unequivocally that using plain packaging will not decrease tobacco sales? Or the American study which concluded the effects of passive smoking cannot be proven to cause significant deaths?

The anti-lobby has become a huge self serving beast which regularly buries evidence to suit itself.

**STEVE SANT**  
Dudley

**LETTERS** to the Editor**POST**

Halesowen Chronicle,  
Chronicle Editorial, 51-53  
Queen Street, Wolverhampton  
WV1 1ES

**E-MAIL**

Dudley.chrons@  
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

## Time will tell on the HS2 white elephant

IN 20 years' time, perhaps, the white elephants known as HS1 and HS2 will have been built at a cost of billions.

An estimated cost has been given but previous painful experience tells us that, if the lines get built at all, the projects will almost certainly finish up costing at least double the given estimate.

In the meantime, in less than two months time, this country's spare energy capacity will be reduced from 20 percent to five percent, with the very real prospect of power cuts. This situation has been described by Ofgem as precarious and it is the direct result of the total failure of successive governments' energy policies and their obsession with sticking to carbon emissions targets imposed on us by the rest of the world, including countries such as China, India and the USA, all of whom ignore the targets.

Instead of blighting people's lives for years with the threat of a project that very few people want and only a tiny minority will benefit from, the governments of this country need to start to get a grip on reality and start spending the billions they are proposing for the pointless high speed rail projects, to deal with the problems we are facing today.

**R A SARGEANT**, Corporation Road, Dudley

## Parking charges will not be a deterrent

RE: pressure being put upon Westfield – the owners of the Merry Hill Shopping Complex – to introduce car parking charges in the hope of thereby persuading shoppers to go elsewhere – presumably the high streets and markets of other towns.

I have every sympathy with the owners and traders in these places who are restricted by access, planning permission, traffic, etc, but Merry Hill has been in existence for at least a quarter of a century – time enough for planners to come up with co-ordinated ideas to help local traders.

As it is, I suspect shoppers would still pay to park at Merry Hill where there is ease of access for all, protection from the elements and passing traffic, every facility to aid easy shopping, toilets maintained in a high level of cleanliness and an impressive choice of food to eat.

**DAVID ATKINSON**  
Kingswinford

# INSPIRATIONAL FIRES & FIREPLACES Be Inspired



## Phone now for free no obligation home survey

Showroom: 404-406 Bearwood Road, Bearwood B66 4EX Tel: 0121 429 3186



www.inspirationalfires.co.uk email: inspirationalfires@hotmail.co.uk



Opening Times: Monday-Saturday 10.00 am-6.00 pm

## Replace Your Tired Kitchen, Bathroom or Bedroom With A Makeover...



Did you know that, 80% of our customers are retired?  
Find out why they trust us for yourselves...

**40% OFF**  
Doors and Drawers  
Before 31st March

**PLUS 10% OFF**  
All New Kitchens,  
Bedrooms, Bathrooms  
Book your no obligation Quote Today!!  
0121 550 4821 or 07726 104200  
Offers cannot be combined

Laminate flooring in tile form - very classy  
Wet Wall Panelling for bathrooms, no more grouting  
Budget range of flat-pack kitchens, super 18mm, for better value and quality than any of the major retailers inclusive of soft close doors, and drawers

**OVER 100 DOOR STYLES, AVAILABLE IN ANY COLOUR YOU CAN NAME**  
**OVER 200 WORKTOP FINISHES**  
**ALL CABINETS AND WARDROBES 18MM PRE-BUILT**

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED



We are licensed credit brokers (No. 612945)

**MANUFACTURERS GUARANTEE**

**NO SALESMEN!**

**No False Promises! No Pressure!**

**Homeowners...**

**Looking to sell?**

Enhance the prospects of selling your property - stunning results for a minimum outlay

**Just moved in?**

Let us help to transform your property into a dream home

**Decided to stay?**

Fall in love again with your home - Revamp your kitchen, bedroom or bathroom and allow us to show your home's true potential

**Bring us your dream pictures and we will bring them to life**

**CUSTOMER SATISFACTION GUARANTEED**

[www.qkm.org.uk](http://www.qkm.org.uk)

**WE WILL NOT LET YOU DOWN!!**

- Minimal disruption
- Free design service
- Unbeatable prices

**OPEN:**

Monday-Friday 9.30 am-5.00 pm  
Saturday 10.00 am-2.00 pm

**Quality Kitchen Makeovers Ltd**  
And Associated Companies  
Oak Lodge Buildings, Furnace Hill  
Halesowen B63 3LZ  
Tel: 0121 550 4821 Mobile: 07726 104200

Terms & conditions apply to all offers

**At QKM**  
We are dedicated to offering our customers the finest service within the home improvement market



**THE GUILD OF MASTER CRAFTSMEN**  
Membership No A120074



*'We have customers who would be more than happy to show you the excellent standard of work'*

# Did You Sleep Alright Last Night?

If not, buying a New Bed from

# Dreamland

## FABULOUS SALE! NOW ON

Will be the BEST thing you have done for a good night's sleep.

**3 FLOORS OF FAMOUS NAMES GUARANTEED BEST PRICES**

**FANTASTIC SAVINGS THROUGHOUT THE STORE!**



Double Size Ottoman Bed  
- Black or Brown Faux Leather  
Was £249  
Now £229  
King Size  
Just £259  
(Mattress extra)

White or Maple Bunk Beds  
**£199.00**  
(Mattress extra)

Big Savings on  
4 Drawer Divan Sets  
Doubles from £399  
Kingsize from £459



RAZZLE Mid Sleeper  
Bed with Curtain  
**£149**  
MATTRESS EXTRA



SOFA BEDS  
Various Designs  
Fabulous Fabrics  
FROM JUST  
**£249**



DOUBLE SIZE  
4 DRAWER DIVAN SETS  
FROM  
**£459**  
(Headboard extra)

ADJUSTABLE  
SINGLE SIZE BEDS  
FROM  
**£549**  
(Headboard extra)

Supporters of  
Mary Stevens Hospice

EVERYTHING RIGHT FROM ADVICE TO PRICE  
**Dreamland Superstore**  
23 Mill Street, Brierley Hill. 01384 74166

**WAKE UP & FEEL GOOD**  
PAY CASH, PAY LESS  
Genuine Savings on our all year round discount prices

## NEWS

# JB's knocked back as bid for banquets is refused

THE NEW owners of revamped nightclub JB's have suffered a knockback as their bid to host conferences and banquets has been thrown out.

Its bosses were hoping to use Dudley Zoo's private car park for the use of guests during functions at the venue.

But in a letter to council planners, the zoo's chief executive Peter Sudcock said the car park, off Castle Hill, Dudley, is strictly for use of the attraction's customers and has restricted opening hours.

Dudley Council's planning department this week announced it has refused a retrospective application on a change of use for the nightclub to allow JB's to hold other events such as conferences and banqueting.

But JB's owner Ramesh Ahir, who reopened the former rock music venue last year, said it was business as usual and added he would be consulting solicitors over launching an appeal against the council's decision.

He says that nightclub customers have been able to use the car park under previous owners and he hopes to come to an agreement with the zoo.

Planning officers, in a report announcing the decision, said: "The continued use of the property for a mix of uses including a nightclub, banqueting suite and conference facilities would raise significant highway safety concerns." Mr Ahir today said he was disappointed by the decision, adding: "We will carry on and stay open but we will look to appeal against this."

### Delve into hidden museum

PEOPLE can learn more about the Worcestershire County Museum at Hartlebury with a tour behind the scenes. Visitors can learn more about the collections in store and items which have never been displayed. The tours will take place on the first Wednesday of the month, from April to October. Tickets can be booked by calling the museum on 01299 250416.

## A question of artwork



Artist Luke Perry with, left to right, assistant librarian Wendy Tibbets and library assistant Louise Moore launch the artwork sessions for the redeveloped Crown Centre at Stourbridge Library

DUDLEY industrial artist Luke Perry is posing a question to residents after being commissioned with creating new artwork to take pride of place inside Stourbridge's redeveloped Crown Centre.

The stylish piece of metal art would be suspended above the entrance to Stourbridge Library which forms a focal point for the centre surrounding it.

Mr Perry has been commissioned by Tesco, which is behind the development scheme. But he says residents' views will help inspire the final design. Workshops were held at Stourbridge Library for people to give their own ideas which could

be based around literature and books and would hang from the new atrium linking the library and the rest of the new shopping centre containing the Tesco supermarket.

It would be made from stainless steel.

**THE STD MASSIVE STOCK CLEARANCE**

100's of rolls in stock all reduced

	NORMAL PRICE	NOW
Axminster 80/20 .....	£39.95	£16.95 sq yd
Wiltons .....	£18.95	£9.95 sq yd
80/20 Twist Piles 42oz .....	£14.95	£9.95 sq yd
Majestic Saxony Stainfree .....	£13.95	£9.95 sq yd
Stainfree Tweed .....	£14.95	£9.95 sq yd
Vinyls .....	£10.95	£7.95 sq yd
Care free felt back .....	£5.95	£3.95 sq yd

**FACTORY CLEARANCE OF OVER 200 PART ROLLS WITH SAVINGS OF UP TO 75%**

STD are the largest stockists of carpets in the Midlands with the best selection, the best fitters, and are NEVER undercut on price

**STD carpets**

Open 6 days a week 9.00 to 5.30 Sunday 10.30 to 4.00, Closed Wednesdays

Church Street, Brierley Hill 01384 76448

BRIERLEY HILL  
STD  
BIRMINGHAM  
WALSALL

**dudley**

DOORS, WINDOWS & CONSERVATORIES  
QUALITY & SECURITY AT AFFORDABLE PRICES

**White UPVC & Coloured Doors • Composite Doors**

Fitted from £550

Fitted from £420

Fitted from £375

Fitted from £450

Fitted from £550

Fitted from £540

Fitted from £800

We are Rock door installers  
Fitted from £880

**Windows and Conservatories**

FRENCH DOORS  
£700 fitted 1800 x 2100

PATIO DOORS  
£700 fitted 1800 x 2100

3x3 Conservatory £5,500

Orangeries from £7,300

Includes electrics, 2 sockets, 2 wall light fittings, dwarf wall and floor tiles. We use porcelain tiles, 8 different colours to choose from. We can supply underfloor heating, if required. (Please ask for details)

Window offer  
5 windows and door of your choice fitted for £1695

We install approx 1,100 installations a year, of which two thirds come from recommendation.

A view of the Orangery from inside

Imagine a place in your home where you can retreat to & relax in a place that brings light & air into your home. A place just for you, tailored to your specifications a great way to extend virtually any property.

[www.dudleydoorsandconservatories.co.uk](http://www.dudleydoorsandconservatories.co.uk)  
Come and visit our factory for quality and factory outlet prices  
**DON'T DELAY CALL TODAY**  
Call: 01384 292484 Mobile: 0777 2131678  
Call for a FREE Home Visit or Visit Our Stallings Lane Factory (next door to Cane & Patio)

## NEWS

## Snipping for charity



Natalie Crutchley at Jimmy Trims in Wolverhampton, which is cutting its prices and donating proceeds to charity

A BOOMING chain of barber shops with branches across the region, including Dudley, is snipping its prices and donating its takings to charity.

On March 5, all Jimmy Trims shops will be offering haircuts at a minimum price of £1, with proceeds going to two different causes. Over the past year, barber shops have opened in High Street, Stourbridge, Jeffcock Road, Penn, Wolverhampton, Wolverhampton Street, Willenhall and Wyrley Brook Road, Cannock, and.

Business owner Mimzy Khatkar, aged 30, said giving something back to the community is key to what the company does. He said he and his business partner Ian Matto decided to raise money for Let Us Play, which provides activities for children and young people with special needs, and Promise Dreams, which raises money for children who are seriously or terminally ill.

He said: "It's putting something back into the local community. It's all very good raising money for international charities but sometimes you need to look nearer to home." The company flew to success in the last year by introducing cult comics and vintage music at their premises.

Mr Khatkar said: "Our customers seem to really appreciate what we do. It keeps people entertained."

Visit [www.jimmytrims.com](http://www.jimmytrims.com)

# Plumber in attack with crowbar on woman's car

**A DUDLEY PLUMBER** smashed up a woman's car with a crowbar on a busy road then told police he had no recollection of it.

Dominic Haskew had been embroiled in a row with the victim as they drove along the A456 in Halesowen and took offence when she gestured towards him. Wolverhampton Crown Court was told how Haskew slammed his brakes on and then attacked the car before driving off.

The attack on April 21 last year showered the victim and her husband in glass but she was able to note his registration.

When police arrived at the 51-year-old's home in Bury Crescent, Wollescote, Stourbridge, his number plates had been removed but when he was questioned by officers he claimed he couldn't remember anything about the attack.

It emerged in the case that Haskew had himself been a victim of an attempted robbery when he was hit over the head with a metal bar and thieves attempted to take his tools.

Mr Michael Aspinall, defending, said: "There's not a lot I can say about this offence because Mr Haskew can't remember any of it - he can't believe he had any involvement which explains his no comment in interview. He was the victim of an

attack in 2011 where he was hit over the head with a metal bar. He suffered a heart attack a few months later. However, this is a shameful act, he pleaded guilty at the first available opportunity and his involvement in this offence is wholly wrong."

Haskew admitted three charges of careless driving, criminal damage and affray.

He was given a nine-month prison sentence suspended for 18 months and a 12-month supervision order.

He was also handed a two month curfew to stay at his home address between 1pm and midnight, six points on his licence and he must pay £250 compensation.

Judge Michael Challinor while passing sentence said: "This offence has had a significant affect on the victim. By maintaining the attack there was intent to injure her."

## Bhandal Dental Surgery

114 Alexandra Road, Halesowen B63 4BL



Spaces now available for new NHS patients,  
Late night appointments  
now available

Please call our friendly team to book an  
appointment on **0121 550 2961**

We offer high quality dental services in modern comfortable surroundings.

Full range of cosmetic dentistry available including:

- Tooth Whitening **Special offer £250.00**
- Crowns and Veneers

You may be eligible for free NHS treatment if you are in receipt of certain benefits. Cosmetic treatment is not available on the NHS.

### OPENING TIMES

Monday 8 till 5 / Tuesday 9 till 5  
Wednesday 8 till 5 / Thursday 8 till 5  
Friday 9 till 2

Bhandal Dental Practice  
[www.bhandaldentalpractices.co.uk](http://www.bhandaldentalpractices.co.uk)

Providing NHS Dentistry



# Hagley Kitchens

Beautiful Kitchens & Bathrooms, Designed with Imagination and Skillfully Fitted with Care

FREE  
Built in  
Dishwasher



Our cabinets are made locally at our state of the art facility here in the Black Country

Guaranteed unbeatable on price

37 Years  
of Happy Customers

"Outstanding kitchen, thoughtfully designed, excellent service"

Mrs Anderson, Hayley Green

"They gave us our perfect kitchen, a great local company." Sandra Donnelly, Kingswinford

"A major project completed on time without any problems" Gill McKenzie, Codsall

"We must have changed our minds a dozen times, they happily made the changes - and without any extra costs" Jeni & Tony Kingston, Tettenhall

"Our beautiful, top of the range ovens, were supplied at better than internet prices, delivered, installed and fully guaranteed" Mrs & Mr Griffiths, Halesowen

Visit our website to see some of our range [www.HagleyKitchens.co.uk](http://www.HagleyKitchens.co.uk)

INSTALLATION • TILING • GAS • ELECTRIC • PLUMBING • BUILDING

Call us now for your  
FREE, no obligation  
survey and design  
07776 207596  
OR: 0121 602 3031

# TOTAL PLASTICS

THE ULTIMATE IN BUILDING PLASTICS

**FREE FLAT SCREEN TV** WITH OPTION 1 OR OPTION 2 CONFIRMED BOOKINGS\* \*Terms and conditions apply

**Option 1**

TO SUPPLY AND FIT AN AVERAGE SIZE 3 BEDROOM HOUSE WITH 7 WHITE 'A' RATED UPVC WINDOWS, FRONT AND BACK DOOR. SUBJECT TO A SITE SURVEY.

**From £3,400 INC VAT\*** Terms and conditions apply

**Option 2**

All Enquiries Welcome Free Day And Evening Surveys No Job Too Small

WE SUPPLY AND FIT TOP QUALITY WINDOWS, DOORS AND CONSERVATORIES, FASCIAS AND GUTTERING AND ALSO SUPPLY A LARGE RANGE OF BATHROOMS AT TRADE PRICES CERTASS APPROVED

White fascias, soffits and guttering supplied, fitted including Vat on an average 3 bedroom house

**From £1,295\*** \*Terms and conditions apply



CALL IN OUR SHOWROOM AND SEE OUR RANGE OF BATHROOMS ON DISPLAY NOW

### HIGH GLOSS FURNITURE

500mm Gloss White WC Unit	500mm Basin	£26.44
500mm Gloss White Basin Unit	500mm Mirror Unit	£78.45
500mm Gloss White Basin Unit	450mm Basin Unit	£80.25
500mm Gloss White Basin Unit	Top	£59.90

### THERMOSTATIC SHOWER VALVE AND KIT

Thermostatic Shower Valve	£39.60
Shower Kit	£15.95

### Underground Drainage Soil and Waste

Asselfy Basin	£35.64
Asselfy Pedestal	£18.49
Asselfy Pan	£58.08

### SHOWER ENCLOSURE

900mm Quadrant Enclosure	£108.90
Pearlstone Shower Trays	NOW
Sliding Doors for easy access	HALF PRICE

\* Satin Silver \* 550mm Radius \* Reversible

\* 5mm Toughened safety glass \* Pearlstone tray

\* Melbourne Pan & Cistern £51.70

\* Melbourne Basin £17.82

\* Melbourne Pedestal £7.92

UNIT 1 GARRATS LANE OLD HILL HALESOWEN B64 5RE  
**Tel: 01384 573 903**

BATHROOMS AND WINDOWS SUPPLIED

**MEMORY LANE**

Standing proud – Beaudesert Hall, for many years the seat of the Marquis of Anglesey, before its demolition



This picture shows the stunning long gallery, complete with fabulous fittings, at the historic Beaudesert Hall



A rear view of Beaudesert Hall, home to the Pagets

## Historic hall's staircase built to accommodate wooden leg

**BETWEEN the Wars, Beaudesert Hall, the seat of the Marquis of Anglesey and home to the Pagets since Henry VIII hit hard times.**

A spendthrift Marquis, death duties and diminishing income from estates had caused the Pagets to retreat to their Anglesey home, Plas Newydd. The once proud hall started to decay. No buyer came forward and eventually the interior fittings were put under auction. The hall stood empty until a fire made it unsafe and it was mainly demolished leaving just a few walls standing.

An Australian couple on honeymoon were having a mansion built on ground given as a wedding present and they bought a large proportion of the fittings and windows from the hall and had them shipped back to their home town of Adelaide.

The fittings included the famous Waterloo Staircase, which had been specially designed so the newly created Marquis of Anglesey could negotiate the stairs with his wooden leg.

Paget, then the Earl of Uxbridge, was second in command at Waterloo, and had his leg sawn off after it being severely wounded. He is reputed to be the first person to have a wooden leg with a knee joint and was able to dance as well as he had before he lost his limb.

The aerial photo shows the Adelaia mansion, known as Carrick Hill, one of the few period homes in Australia to survive with its original contents almost completely intact and one of

*by Ron Bradbury*

only a handful of such places open to the public in the country.

The others show Beaudesert Hall before demolition and the long gallery with some fine fittings.

My local photo book, now out of print and showing some photos of Beaudesert Hall was presented to the Carrick Hill House Trust by my friend John Ashley on a visit.

### Atmospheric

The Burntwood Chase Heritage Group Nostalgia Night is on Tuesday, February 5 when the atmospheric film 'Turn of the Tide' will be screened. It was the first film that J Arthur Rank financed and was in fact his favourite.

The venue is St Johns Church, High Street, Chase Terrace at 7.30pm. This film is being shown by request and has not been seen for several years.



Aerial shot of Carrick Hill period home in Australia



# YOUNGS COACHES

### IRELAND AND THE BEAUTIFUL BOYNE VALLEY

Sunday 5th May. Nights Trim. 2 Nights Dublin 6 Days Half / Board Inclusive Of Ferry And Excursions £395 Single Supp. £86

### SANDY BAY HOLIDAY VILLAGE

Monday 13th May 5 Days

Half / Board £180

### SEACROFT HOLIDAY VILLAGE . NORFOLK

Monday 3rd June 5 Days

Full / Board 2 Excursions £227

STD.ACCOM £227 Upgrade £243

### LLANDUDNO KENSINGTON HOTEL

Monday 17th June 5 Days

Half / Board 2 Excursions £259

### TENBY. CLARENCE HOTEL

Monday 30th September 5 Days  
Half / Board 2 Excursions £247

### TURKEY AND TINSEL BOURNEMOUTH

Monday 11th November 5 Days  
Troville Hotel. Half / Board 2 Excursions £228

### BOURNMOUTH TROUVILLE HOTEL

Monday 11th November 5 Days  
Half / Board 2 Excursions £228 per person

### TURKEY AND TINSEL EASTBOURNE

Monday 18th November 5 Days  
Half / Board 2 Excursions £263

### NEW YEAR TORQUAY TOORAK HOTEL

Sunday 29th November 5 days  
Half / Board 2 Excursions £375

**Also Available For Private Hire: 8 - 16 - 29 - 49 Seaters  
For all coaching requirements**

**TO BOOK PLEASE RING YOUNGS COACHES**  
**01384 895686 01562 710717 OR 07973717547 07710000577**

## Local Tradesmen

"We have found that 60% of our business comes from our advert in the Chronicle". LB plastering services To find out how you can advertise from as little as £10.50 a week, contact Ryan Cooper on

**01384 353227**



<p><b>It's all HAPPENING</b> the nec birmingham</p> <p>KENNEDY STREET &amp; 3A PRESENTS 24 MAY 2013 <b>MARK KNOPFLER AND BAND</b> LG ARENA</p>	<p><b>CHRIS DE BURGH</b> THE NIA</p> <p>LIVE NATION PRESENTS 28 MAY 2013 <b>JOURNEY</b> LG ARENA</p>	<p><b>EDDIE IZZARD</b> THE NIA</p> <p>KENNEDY STREET &amp; 3A PRESENTS 23 JUN 2013 <b>FRANKIE VALLI</b> MUSIC HALL PRESENTS 20 - 22 SEP 2013 <b>PETER PAN</b> LG ARENA</p>
<p><b>HAPPENING at</b> the nec birmingham</p> <p>CENTAUR EXHIBITIONS PRESENTS 21 - 24 MAR 2013 <b>THE NATIONAL HOMEBUILDING &amp; RENOVATING SHOW</b> THE NEC</p>	<p><b>THE SEWING, FASHION &amp; HOBBYCRAFTS SHOW</b> THE NEC</p>	<p><b>NITRO CIRCUS LIVE</b> THE NIA</p>
<p><b>UPPER STREET EVENTS</b> 21 - 24 MAR 2013 <b>Gadget Show Live</b> THE NEC</p>		

lgarena.co.uk thenia.co.uk 0844 338 8000 FOLLOW US [f](#) [t](#)



## Stuart & Neil Hodgkins

WATCH REPAIRERS,  
JEWELLERS & ENGRAVERS  
151 HIGH STREET,  
BLACKHEATH B65 0EA  
(Next to the new library)

TELEPHONE:  
0121 559 7156



### ACHTUNG - PARTS FOR EVEN MORE GERMANS!

NOT ONLY VW-AUDI, BUT ALSO B.M.W., SEAT, SKODA & MERCEDES

CHECK OUR UNBEATABLE PRICES UPTO 70% DISCOUNT

Quality, Service & Value Since 1975

**P.W. EURO PARTS LTD.**

TWO GATES LANE

HALESOWEN WEST MIDLANDS

TEL: 01384 567752 & 565300

[www.pweuroparts.com](http://www.pweuroparts.com)

## NEWS

# Driver may have fallen asleep due to painkillers

## Primates plumping up



Trainee keeper Cerys Grove, of Stourbridge weighs one of the monkeys

MONKEYS at Dudley Zoo have been trained to hop on to weighing scales once a month as part of their regular health checks.

The weigh-ins for the male Saki monkeys allow keepers to spot evidence of any monkey tricks at mealtimes when Obi Wan, Deju and Rio receive their daily rations.

Curator Matt Lewis said:

"Because they have thick, hairy coats, it's difficult to see whether one of them is hogging the food and getting fat," or maybe not eating enough and losing weight.

"We've trained them to hop on to the scales in return for a piece of carrot or banana. We have to vary the food to keep them co-operative, but the ploy seems to be working."

A LORRY driver who died when his HGV drifted off a motorway and hit a barrier and a tree may have fallen asleep after taking strong painkillers, an inquest heard.

Father-of-two David Smith, aged 37, of Russells Hall Road, Dudley, was driving on the M5 near Gloucester early on June 1 last year when he crashed.

There was evidence that Mr Smith had taken strong painkillers, which could cause drowsiness, for a serious back complaint in the 24 hours before his death, the inquest in Gloucester heard.

His wife Emma said in a statement, he was a "cheeky, bubbly and laid-back man" who lived for his family, loved football and enjoyed a drink at weekends. He worked nights as a driver for City Link and was a fit and healthy man until January 2012, when he developed back and leg pain.

In a statement, his GP, Dr Stephen Cartwright said Mr Smith had been prescribed co-codamol painkillers in January 2012 but later asked for stronger medication. On May 8, he was prescribed Tramadol and was advised not to take them before driving, Dr Cartwright said. Toxicological analysis showed low levels of Tramadol in Mr Smith's system. A post mortem examination by pathologist revealed Mr Smith died of head and other multiple injuries. Gloucestershire deputy coroner David Dooley recorded a verdict of accidental death.

### Ex-mayor enjoys 101

A FORMER Mayor of Stourport has celebrated her 101st birthday and puts it down to "a glass of sherry on special occasions and living a happy life." Elizabeth Mills MBE, who was born on February 25, 1912, marked the milestone with family and friends at Ravenhurst Care Home, Stourport. Elizabeth worked as a bank clerk in Walsall before and during the Second World War. She moved to Stourport with her late husband Lesley in 1956.

# Clothing Alterations For Ladies and Gents

## BRIDAL AND PROM DRESS SPECIALISTS



Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sat  
9.30am - 4.00pm

**21 Upper High Street,  
Cradley Heath B64 5HX**  
**01384 826626**

**30 High Street,  
Halesowen  
B63 3BB**  
**0121 585 0890**

# Hasbury Windows Ltd



**Winter  
Offers a  
Great Deal  
at Hasbury**

**OTHER OFFERS  
AVAILABLE**

Throughout  
March  
including fitting  
and VAT

(Terms and conditions apply)

6 Windows and 1 Composite Door

**SPECIAL OFFER**

~~£2999~~ **NOW £2799**

Also French Doors £850 • Back Doors £450



\* Your local well established business offering top quality products and service

\* No payment until completion

\* Call us now for a great deal on your new windows, doors and conservatories

\* Visit our showroom \* Deal direct with the owner

\* If you want quality, value and service it 'has to be Hasbury'!

9 Halesowen Road, Halesowen, West Midlands B62 9AA  
0121 421 7001 / 0121 421 2104 / 01384 78796

(opposite the Stag & Three Horseshoes)

SHOWROOM OPEN:  
Mon-Fri 8 am-5 pm • Sat 10 am-2 pm  
Phonelines open 9 am-9 pm



for ANY Conservatory over 15 sq.metres  
Highest quality energy efficient products from the Midlands **No 1** Conservatories/Windows Installer  
The brand you can trust

**BUY NOW, PAY LATER OR 0% INTEREST FREE CREDIT\***

We will beat any genuine like for like quote from any established reputable company (10 years plus)\*



Is your roof leaking or need replacing?  
• 20 year guarantee  
• Life expectancy up to 50 years

**BUY WITH CONFIDENCE FROM A WELL ESTABLISHED COMPANY REGISTERED WITH COMPANY HOUSE FOR OVER 26 YEARS**

**Stormseal UK LTD**  
**Birmingham**

**0121 568 7388**

Cannock  
Wolverhampton  
Stafford  
Coventry  
Sandwell & Dudley

01543 401101  
01902 489498  
01785 318699  
02476 960880  
01384 847123

Kidderminster  
Walsall  
Rugby  
Leamington Spa  
Stratford Upon Avon



**FREEPHONE: 0500 7775 75**

### GIFT VOUCHER

In conjunction with Conservatory Order - One item per customer

Electrics including fan light  Tiles  Air cooler/Heater  Laminate Flooring

For a free quotation call our freephone no. 0500 77 75 75

0121 568 7388 Fax: 0121 568 8818

Regional Depot: Pinfield Street, Darlaston/Wednesbury WS10 0BY

Email: admin@stormsealuk.com website: stormsealuk.com

Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer. Voucher must be handed to representative on first visit

## NEWS

# Plans for £2.6m revamp at park are submitted

A £2.6 MILLION revamp of a park used by thousands from across the region has moved a step closer after plans for the project were lodged by council bosses.

The scheme at Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Park includes creating a new cafe and restoring the bandstand.

Improvements would also be made to the Heath Pool, to include a viewing platform, and the war memorial.

Sports facilities including the tennis courts and bowling green will also be refurbished under the plans drawn up by Dudley Council. Bosses are bidding for cash from the Heritage Lottery Fund to cover the cost.

A second round application is due to be submitted in the coming weeks. They have already been awarded an initial grant of £116,000 to develop the proposals.

As part of the work, the main Grade II listed gates will be restored. Residents and councillors have long campaigned for them to be spruced up because the brick and iron-work has been showing signs of decay.

Other work includes encouraging greater use of the formal terrace and Tea Gardens as well as woodland in the east of the park.

A "graffiti shelter" for teenagers will also be restored. It provides a display area for "the creative production" of graffiti within the park. New footpaths would also be created.

Councillor Tracy Wood said: "Mary Stevens Park in Stourbridge is one of the most well-used parks in the borough."

### Hedge volunteers wanted

VOLUNTEERS are wanted to join in a day of hedge planting at an organic farm in Kinver. The community event, organised by the Transition Stourbridge group will be held at Vale Head Farm, Compton Road, on March 10, starting at 10am. Anyone joining in is asked to bring wellies, suitable clothing, a spade if they have one and something to share for lunch. More information call 01384 351414.



The war memorial in Mary Stevens Park in line for improvements



Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge - a £2.6m plan has been submitted

## Express & Star



SAVE £80 PER YEAR WITH AN

IPAD OR IPHONE SUBSCRIPTION

READ THE EXPRESS & STAR FOR

JUST £4.99 A MONTH

Save £6.71 per month on the printed edition\*. Sign up now for a FREE 14 day trial. Get every edition of the Midlands Newspaper of the Year direct to your digital device within minutes of publication. All the news and sport plus interactive features including video.

GO TO [WWW.EXPRESSANDSTAR.COM/DOWNLOADAPP](http://WWW.EXPRESSANDSTAR.COM/DOWNLOADAPP)



\*Digital subscription £4.99, compared with monthly direct debit print subscription £11.70. Total annual saving £80.52

MNA Media

**Jennifer aims to cut it**

Hairdresser Jennifer Dunn, aged 23, from Oldbury who is competing in the "Miss Black Country" competition A DUDLEY hairdresser is in the running for the title of Miss Black Country for a second year after taking the runner-up spot in the competition in 2012.

Jennifer Dunn, of Oldbury, is hoping to build on her previous success in the event and take the coveted tiara.

The 23-year-old, who works at Snippers, Kingswinford, said she was looking forward to taking part in the competition again.

The finals of the Miss Black Country competition will be held at the Village Hotel in Dudley, on March 28.

Jennifer entered the competition for the first time last year with her runner-up spot securing her a place in the semi-final of the Miss England competition.

The winner of Miss Black Country title is automatically placed in the finals of the Miss England event.

"I had such a good time last year I was really eager to take part in the competition again," she said.

"I am Black Country born and raised so to win the title would mean the world to me."

# Traffic chaos worries over five months of roadworks

**WORRIED** Sedgley people fear about five months of roadworks will cause chaos on one of the town's busiest roads.

Between March 4 and August 16 Gospel End Street will be one-way heading away from the town centre as far as its junction with High Street. Vicar Street will be one-way westbound and Hall Street will close to allow a stone wall to be dismantled and rebuilt further from the road as a footpath is created.

However, Margaret Whiting, aged 61, of The Northway, said: "It sounds like it will be a right mess - five months on one of the busiest roads here."

"It's just crazy. It's hard enough for shops here with the lack of parking."

Sarah Wheatley, of Sedgley Hill Avenue, said the temporary system would be "chaos" and added: "This road through the High Street is already really busy."

"There must be a better way. Hopefully they'll be done before six months."

Sedgley councillor Michael Evans, said people should be patient and disruption would be worth it in the end.

"Gospel End Street is an extremely busy road. There are three sets of school chil-

dren that have to cross it and elderly people also have much difficulty," he said.

"Now the stone wall will be going and it will be put back a bit to allow room for a footpath to be built where there is none currently."

Nearby schools are Cotwall End Primary School, off Priory Lane; Dormston School, Mill Bank, and Queen Victoria Primary School, Bilston Street.

Mr Evans said a long period was needed mainly as the wall to be dismantled was long. He added:

"Having so far failed to get a crossing so many people had asked for, the footpath was 'the best we could achieve'. During the work there will be a diversion along The Northway, A459 Wolverhampton Road, High Street and Dudley Street."

## ADVERTISEMENT

Middleton Dummer in Oldbury has secured membership to the Law Society's Conveyancing Quality Scheme - the mark of excellence for the home buying process.

Middleton Dummer underwent rigorous assessment by the Law Society in order to secure CQS status, which marks the firm out as meeting high standards in the residential conveyancing process.

Law Society President John Wotton said that the Law Society introduced CQS to promote high standards in the home buying process.

"CQS improves efficiency with common, consistent standards and service levels and enables consumers to recognise practices that provide a quality residential conveyancing service."

"Buying a home is one of the largest purchases anyone will make in their lifetime, so it is essential that it is done to the highest standard by a Solicitor. There are many different conveyancing service providers out there, making it difficult for home buyers to identify those which can ensure a safe and efficient level of service."

Adam Dummer says "Middleton Dummer is delighted to have secured CQS status. It is recognition of the high standards we provide to our residential property Clients and is a signal to future home buyers of the excellent service we provide at what is often a stressful time for many people."

"The overall beneficiaries will be Clients who use Middleton Dummer when buying a home. They will receive a reliable, efficient service as recognised by the CQS standard."

The scheme requires practices to undergo a strict assessment, compulsory training, self reporting, random audits and annual reviews in order to maintain CQS status. It is open only to members of the Law Society who meet the demanding standards set by the scheme and has the support of the Council of Mortgage Lenders, the Building Societies Association, Legal Ombudsman and the Association of British Insurers.

## YOUR CONVEYANCING

Handled By Friendly Specialist Solicitors



**The Mark of Excellence for the Home Buying Process**

**Middleton Dummer**



**Middleton Dummer**  
SOLICITORS

Please Contact  
Carl, Jon or  
Roger  
**0121 544 4788**

High Trees House  
1-9 Pool Lane,  
Oldbury B69 4QX  
info@middletondummer.co.uk

**OPEN EVENT**  
**THURSDAY 14 MARCH**  
**4PM TO 7PM**

To deliver the skills of tomorrow today

**theacademy**  
at kidderminster

featuring the Samsung Experience

- Tours of the stunning Academy
- See new technologies showcased in the Samsung Experience
- 3D technology, create blockbuster video games
- Learn how to make an App
- See our inspirational fashion and retail studios
- Live cookery demonstrations
- Entrepreneurship, marketing, legal qualifications

**Full and part time courses starting soon for school leavers and adult learners**

Hospitality, Catering, Legal Studies, Team Leading and Customer Service

**Find out about our Saturday Junior Academies for 14-16s**

Hospitality, Apps, Fashion, Young Entrepreneurs

**0121 355 5671 Ext 5802**

or email [kiddacad@bmetc.ac.uk](mailto:kiddacad@bmetc.ac.uk)

[www.kidderminsteracademy.co.uk](http://www.kidderminsteracademy.co.uk)

THE ACADEMY AT KIDDERMINSTER  
THE PIANO BUILDING, WEAVERS WHARF  
KIDDERMINSTER DY10 1AA



"Kidderminster Academy"



@kidderminsterac

**BIRMINGHAM METROPOLITAN COLLEGE**  
shaping futures • changing lives



**FIREPLACE FACTORY DIRECT**

AS SEEN ON CHANNEL 4's THE RENOVATION GAME

**CUT OUT THE MIDDLEMAN AND BUY DIRECT!!**

Our number one aim is to give 100% satisfaction to our customers. We guarantee to beat any like for like quote

The Paris Stone Marble Fireplaces & Lights  
£499 Complete with Gas Fire £599

**FREE SURVEYS**

Open Mon-Fri 8 am-4 pm Saturday 8am-2pm

**FREE SURVEY**

Unit 12, Parkrose Industrial Estate, Middlemore Road B66 2DZ  
**0121 558 8265**

**Check us out on Facebook**  
[www.fireplacefactorydirect.co.uk](http://www.fireplacefactorydirect.co.uk)

**Have You Been Injured in an Accident?**

**NOT your fault?**

Your claim will be handled by friendly specialist solicitors who are local to you.

Keep 100% of your compensation! • No deductions • Win or lose - you pay nothing

**Middleton Dummer SOLICITORS**

**FREE HOME VISITS**  
**0121 544 4788**

Please contact:  
Rob, Adam or Angela at  
High Tree's House, 1-9 Pool Lane, Oldbury, Warley, West Midlands B69 4QX

**A-Zee Fix**

DOUBLE GLAZING INSTALLATIONS & REPAIRS

Telephone: 01384 259761  
Mobile: 07769 975841

70mm Internally Glazed High Security Frames  
28mm Pilkington K' Units  
Document L Compliant  
Shoot Bolt Locking  
Sight Line Glazing  
Secured By Design PAS023 / PAS024

Repairs and Upgrades  
Insurance Work  
Failed Units

Broken Locks  
Door Panels  
Letter Boxes

Sticking Doors  
Handles and Mechanisms

**ALL WORK GUARANTEED PHONE TODAY FOR A FREE QUOTATION**

**wow! Great value coach holidays**

Coaches depart from your local West Midlands pick up point

**wow!**

**Sandown, IOW**  
3/4 nights half board Marina Bay Hotel  
Top Value Spring breaks to this excellent hotel on Sandown seafront  
• Round The Island Tour included

**4 days £129.95**  
Fri 29 Mar 19 Apr

**5 days £159.95**  
Mon 18, 25 Mar 15, 22 Apr

**Newquay**  
Godolphin / California Hotel  
Mon 25 Mar, 22, 29 Apr 5, 20 May  
**5 days from £149.95**

**London Shows**  
• Bodyguard • Viva Forever  
• Kiss Me Kate • Charlie & The Chocolate Factory  
• The Book of Mormon  
• Mamma Mia  
• Lion King  
• Mystery Show & many more

**Warner Bros Studio Tour**  
The Making of Harry Potter  
Sat 20 Apr, 25 May, 29 Jun 3, 31 Aug  
Overnight half board  
**2 days £99.95**  
Call for brochure

**Folkestone plus day trip to Bruges**  
Southcliff / Burstin Hotel  
4 DAYS Fri 15, 22, 29 Mar, 19, 26 Apr  
5 DAYS Mon 18, 25 Mar, 1, 15, 22, 29 Apr  
**99p BAR 6-9pm**  
Burstin Hotel until 28 Mar (selected dates)  
**4/5 days from £99.95**

**wow! Babbacombe**  
3/4 nights half board Ashley Rise / Norcliffe Hotel  
INCLUDED EXCURSIONS  
• Seaton & Sidmouth  
• Totnes & Dartmouth (5 days only)  
**4 days £119.95**  
Fri 29 Mar 3, 24 May  
**5 days £119.95**  
Mon 18, 25 Mar 1, 15, 22, 29 Apr

**Travelstyle miles more smiles**  
Call for brochure **0844 682 0065**  
[www.travelstyletours.co.uk](http://www.travelstyletours.co.uk)

## USE YOUR LOFT!

**Bison Loft Ladders**

Access your loft safely and easily with Bison loft stairs. The stairs are made and fitted by our Midlands craftsmen using timber from sustainable sources. A gas strut mechanism requiring just fingertip control makes opening and closing your loft stairs exceptionally easy.

£395 Special offer for limited time only starting from £240 (excl VAT) Quote Ref B2

7,000 Over 5,000 installations to date!

Safety hand rail Unique to Bison

7,000 Over 5,000 installations to date!

VISA All major credit cards accepted

**theloft stairs company**

The Loft Stairs Company, Unit 59, Atcham Industrial Estate, Shrewsbury SY4 4UG  
Visit our website [www.theloftstaircompany.co.uk](http://www.theloftstaircompany.co.uk)

**Freephone 0800 389 1281**

## Are you a member of a local voluntary group?

**Do you have a good news story?  
Do you need to promote an event for a charity or a local good cause?**

The Halesowen Chronicle needs local news stories for your local paper for you the local reader.

**Please call the chronicle team on 01384 353234**

## CLUB NEWS

Learning about life on canals

### QUARRY BANK E TWG

CHAIRMAN Mrs V Wright opened this, the first meeting of 2013 by wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

Normal business followed with the reading and signing of minutes of our last meeting and the treasurer's report.

Mrs Wright informed us of the success of last year's charity events, the money raised having been sent to our chosen charity, Mary Stevens Hospice.

Mrs V Raybould gave information from her attending at the federation meeting.

The annual lunch is again at The Mill Hotel and will be on July 29.

Orders for 2014 TG diaries must be in by March 19.

Social secretary Mrs M Writtle said the birthday lunch would be at The Mill Hotel on March 26. A list was sent round on which to record menu preferences. A craft exhibition at the Ruskin Centre was also mentioned.

The speaker for the evening was Tina Gittins, who drew attention to the fact that the canals were so important in bringing prosperity both to the Black Country and other industrial areas because of the quick efficient transport of materials and manufactured goods, so slow and laborious previously by horse and wagon.

She also dwelt on the lives of women working alongside the men on the canal barges and at the same time bringing up their children in such tiny cramped cabins.

# Coffee and a chat helps out charities



Jon Newman, from Macmillan Cancer Support, and Sylvia McCarty and Mildred Weir, from Cruse Bereavement Care, standing, accept their cheques from chairman Helen Roberts, seated, and incoming chairman Sarah James, standing centre

### WULFRUNA LADIES' COFFEE CLUB

buy sales and raffles, as well as charging members £1 for their drinks.

Other organisations they have raised cash for include Compton Hospice and the eye infirmary. The group has announced its next fundraiser will be for the MS Therapy Centre in the city.

Club secretary Rosemary Moss, who has been attending the group since the mid 1970s, said: "It is incredible when you think it has all been raised thanks to having a cup of coffee."

## A minute's silence for Meg

CHAIRMAN Jean Latham welcomed 55 members, including nine newcomers, to the February meeting.

A minute's silence was observed for Meg Guinness, a founder member and the chairman between 1974 and 1977.

In the absence of secretary Sue Ward, the minutes of the last meeting were read by Jill Dunn. A thank you letter had been received from the Acorns Children's

### WOLLASTON E TWG

Hospice for the donation of £75 from the guild's carol service at Cobden Street Methodist Church.

The annual dinner is to be held at Blakelands Restaurant, Bobbington, on the evening of May 7.

Federation representative Joan Oakley is still unable to attend due to illness, from which we wish her a speedy

recovery. Hazel Butt read an extensive account of the last meeting. Sub section leaders then gave their reports.

The speaker, Ian Bott, gave an informative and interesting talk on local churches and cemeteries.

The competition winners were Elizabeth Grove and Anna Price. Raffle prizes went to Brenda Adkins and Sandra Oliver.

The annual general meeting will be on March 12.

**Midland UPVC**   
**Buy British**

**SAVE POUNDS ON YOUR FUEL BILLS WITH OUR ENERGY RATED WINDOWS**



**MARCH SALE 6 FLAT WINDOWS ANY SIZE**

**£1450**  
fitted

**Buy Direct from your local manufacturer**

**A FAMILY RUN BUSINESS**

**Visit our website:**

**[www.midlandupvc.co.uk](http://www.midlandupvc.co.uk)**

**No hidden extras very competitive price**

- Free Design service
- 10 yr Insurance back guarantee
- Secured by design Quality Products
- Energy saving Windows & Doors
- All built and installed by our own fitters

## Fantastic new Door Range



**SPECIAL OFFER**  
PVC Door From  
**£375**  
Fitted

Also Special Offers on Conservatories

As seen on the BBC DIY SOS



ALL AREAS COVERED **01384 234170**  
After 5pm **01384 429152**

**sales@midlandupvc.co.uk**  
OFFICE HOURS Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm

## Art wins honours



Sculptor Phil Potter, from Brierley Hill, with his two award-winning sculptures, at Ruskin Glass Centre, Amblecote

A SCULPTOR based at Stourbridge's Ruskin Glass Centre has been honoured for his work.

Phil Potter received a commendation for two pieces he submitted to the Friends of the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists exhibition. The presentation was made at the private view at the St Paul's Square Gallery.

Mr Potter, 45, graduated from Loughborough College of Art and Design with a degree in sculpture in 1995. Since then he has been teaching and has been based at the Ruskin Centre since 2001.

Last year he gave up teaching to become a full-time artist. Both of the award-winning pieces are now back on display at the centre.

The first which took him 12 months to complete, is made from a four-inch slab of limestone and has a Celtic knot-work pattern. The second is 4ft 6ins tall and is also made of limestone.

Mr Potter, who lives in Brierley Hill and is one of 18 practising artists based at the Ruskin, said: "The award is voted for by other members of the group which makes it all the more special."

# Drug addict chased his father with axe in feud

A DRUG addict chased his father with an axe after first embedding the weapon in his car windscreen.

Christopher Smart had only been arrested days earlier for throwing a concrete block through the window of his mother's vehicle. Wolverhampton Crown Court heard how Smart's mother heard a loud noise and when she went to investigate she saw a large lump of concrete had been put through her car.

The court was told how the defendant had drug issues and became estranged from his parents which sparked the feud.

After carrying out the act on his mother's car on September 23 last year, Smart of Hungerford Road, Stourbridge, was arrested, admitted the crime and was bailed. When his father went to check on the property in Hungerford Road, three days later, he saw his 23-year-old son wielding a six-

inch knife and an axe embedded in the windscreen of his car. The court heard Smart began shouting "you're going to get it now".

He then dropped the knife, grabbed the axe and continued to chase his father before throwing it at him. Miss Kate Thomas, defending, said: "I have had a long and heartfelt conference with Mr Smart's family who intend to support him."

Smart was given a 12-month community order and is required to carry out six months of rehab and 12 months of supervision. He is also required to take a behaviour programme.

## History group's first meeting

WOODSIDE Memory & History Group has its first meeting of the year on Monday March 18 at 7pm. Chairman Len Hughes said the subject of the meeting would be based on Blocksides Dudley Almanac for 1945 detailing 'The Epitome of Local Events'. Mr Hughes said the meeting would be held at the Woodside Community Centre, attached to Woodside Primary School.

## NEWS

# Time for a new shed?

Sheds - Summer Houses  
Playhouses - Potting Sheds  
Workshops - Home Offices  
Bin Stores - Log Stores  
Free Delivery & Erection  
Shed Refelting Service

Custom made service available built to your size and requirements  
Payment plans available



For further details or a free quotation call  
**07594 841785**

## SHEDS & SUMMER HOUSES

Ground Floor, Falcon House, High Street, Lye DY9 8LX



## Stourbridge Fencing Supplies

### HIGH QUALITY, BUDGET COST

WE SUPPLY ALL  
**Fencing Products**  
Fitting Service Available

**Call 07594 841785**  
Ground Floor, Falcon House  
High Street, Lye DY9 8LX

# BATHROOM MAGIC



Bathroom Magic is a large bathroom showroom, with over 40 displays, based in Brierley Hill just opposite the Merry Hill shopping centre.

Quality at affordable prices with excellent customer service is our policy and has seen Bathroom Magic become one of the best bathroom showrooms in the area.

We only supply branded goods from reputable manufacturers with real worthwhile guarantees but sell them at discounted prices so you, the customer, can have a quality fitted bathroom that will stand the test of time without having to buy unbranded products that will soon need replacing.

Managing director, Mike Jones, was a bathroom fitter himself for over 25 years and with his high standards he personally checks all of our recommended fitters credentials and inspects the quality of their fitting before he will issue them with any work. Go to our website and click 'Fitted Bathrooms' to see some examples of previous bathrooms fitted by us.

We offer a free design service for your dream bathroom and you can choose from three options: fully fitted, the less expensive 'recommended fitter scheme' or supply only. We guarantee satisfaction. With free delivery on orders over £500.00 why not give Bathroom Magic a try? You just might like what you find...

## FULL DESIGN SERVICE AND INSTALLATION SERVICE

"Sit back and let us do everything - we will come and visit, measure up, design, supply and install your dream bathroom" (Supply only also available)

**FREE** quotations. **3 year guarantee** on installations. WET ROOM SPECIALISTS.

UNIT 35, ENTERPRISE TRADING ESTATE, HURST LANE, BRIERLEY HILL, DY5 1TX

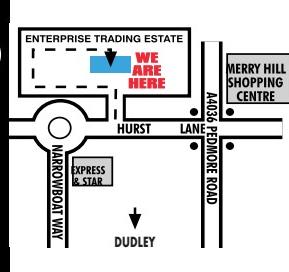
**01384 79300**

[www.bathroommagicltd.co.uk](http://www.bathroommagicltd.co.uk)

Opening times: Monday - Friday 9am-5pm, Saturday: 10am-4pm, Sunday: Closed



Bathroom Magic is a member of the Guild of Master Craftsmen and have been awarded a certificate for our high standard of quality & service.



**NEWS****NEWS**  
in brief**Elderly man is robbed at home**

TWO robbers burst into an elderly man's home in Dudley and stole the jewellry he was wearing.

The two men knocked on the 76-year-old's door at his home in Brereton Close and when he answered they forced their way in, punching him to the floor.

They then stole a silver chain with a crucifix on it from around his neck and two gold bracelets from his wrist before running off. He suffered a cut lip and bruising in the attack.

Officers revealed details of the raid to find anyone with anyone with information about the crime which happened at around 9.50am on January 9.

**Baggies' stars to face a grilling**

FORMER West Bromwich Albion stars are to face a grilling at Old Hill cricket club.

Cyrille Regis and Richard Sneeckes will be quizzed on their time at the Baggies at the cricket club in Haden Hill Park Road, Cradley Heath on March 14 from 7.30pm.

Tickets are £5 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/slldhllc or can be bought from Danny Cox on 07411 647364.

**Anti-racism move**

DUDLEY Council bosses joined two major football clubs in a scheme to beat racism. The council will host Show Racism the Red Card for events over the next year, many with West Bromwich Albion and Wolves.

# Ex-finance boss must hand back thousands she stole

**THOUSANDS** of pounds taken from a Black Country nursing home by its former finance chief are to be returned after a court ruling.

Tracy Bennett fiddled £25,993 at Holbeche House, Wall Heath. Bennett, aged 40, of Broad Street, Kingswinford, was back before Wolverhampton Crown Court last week for a proceeds of crime hearing. Edward Soulsby, prosecuting, said that £13,982 taken by Bennett was in two bank accounts which had been frozen by the court.

Recorder Abigail Nixon ruled that it be released and paid back to Four Seasons, the company which runs the home.

Bennett has no other assets. But if she comes into money in the future, the courts will be able to apply for her to pay back the outstanding money.

Bernard Porter, defending, said his client did not object to the money being paid back.



Tracy Bennett

Bennett, a single mother of twins, joined the care home in Wolverhampton Road in 2008 and worked her way up to become financial administrator.

She moved cash into a personal account to pay her bills and then fiddled the books to cover it up.

Bennett forged signatures on receipts which suggested cash went on buying items for the nursing home. She also syphoned off cash paid by local authorities to cover the accommodation costs of people living at the home.

Her trial heard that when arrested, Bennett showed no remorse, blaming it all on her depression.

She pleaded guilty to two charges of fraud and was given a 42-week prison sentence suspended for two years.

Judge Martin Walsh said that she was not jailed immediately because of her health, children, and previous good character.

Sarah Ramamurthy, of Four Seasons, has said that any resident or former resident who had lost money would be reimbursed.

## Double top for darts team



Pensnett Liberal Club darts team, including captain Alan Lathe, seated, celebrate winning 20 games in a row and the title

A DARTS team in Dudley has celebrated winning the league title in some style with an amazing 20-game winning streak.

The Liberal Club darts team, which plays its home games in Pensnett, only lost one game – their final match of the season – en route to winning the title.

They have been cheered on during the successful campaign by friends and family watching their weekly matches.

The table-topping win was secured despite the 4-3 defeat in the final game against The Shakespeare Pub in Dudley.

Around eight players form the team, captained by Alan Lathe, and they play their games in the Pensnett, Brierley Hill and Bromley Tuesday Night Darts League.

One of their throwers, Jamie Lewis, topped the table for the best league average over the season.

## New laws make dent in thefts of metal

METAL theft across the West Midlands is at its lowest level in two years, claim police, with chiefs praising new laws to cut cash payments for scrap.

Latest figures showed reports peaking last May with around 850 metal thefts a month, but in December there were 100.

It still equates to more than three a day, but the region's Police and Crime Commissioner Bob Jones paid tribute to officers' efforts to drive down a problem that had become the scourge of churches, schools, homeowners and even blighted the public transport network.

Mr Jones said: "Metal thefts in December 2012 were the lowest we've seen, which is a huge achievement. I would like to congratulate West Midlands Police and partners for making this possible."

The police, local authorities, MPs, councillors, and many others campaigned for many years to end cash payments for scrap metal, and we are starting to see the fruits of these new laws."

## Free gas check

DUDLEY Council tenants in are being offered free annual gas check at their properties. Dudley Council tenants are asked to call 01384 286086 to arrange an appointment from Monday to Saturday between 8am and 8pm.

### WORCESTER BOSCH SPECIALIST WORCESTER

**Gastek**  
Solutions

24/7 Emergency Call Out

WORCESTER accredited installer

- Boiler Services
- Landlord Checks
- Full Central Heating Systems
- Boiler Swaps and Conversions
- Bathroom Installations
- Power Flushing
- Air Conditioning
- Air to Air Heat
- Gas Appliance Installations
- All Domestic Plumbing Work



All work is carried out by fully qualified engineers

### SPECIAL OFFERS

#### MARCH OFFERS ON CENTRAL HEATING DEALS

- Competitive prices from £69
- Parts and labour inclusive
- A boiler diagnostic and safety check
- 12 month guarantee on workmanship including parts
- Expertise from Gas Safe registered gastek engineers
- 24/7 Free emergency helpline
- Even if the job takes longer than estimated, you won't pay a penny more than the amount quoted

**FREE Magna Filter**  
with all  
Heating Systems!

Office Open 8am-6pm Monday-Friday 8am-4pm Saturday  
Tel: 01384 560856 • 07737 261976  
www.gasteksolutions.co.uk info@gasteksolutions.co.uk

Halesowen, West Midlands

ALL MAJOR CREDIT & DEBIT CARDS ACCEPTED



Accredited Installer



Domestic Installer



Industry

BOSCH SPECIALIST WORCESTER BOSCH SPECIALIST

## Short breaks, holidays and long haul adventures to destinations near and far

... by coach, rail, Eurostar,  
self-drive and air



**star extra TRAVEL**

See us online at: [www.expressandstar.com/starextratravel](http://www.expressandstar.com/starextratravel)

Brought to you by the

**Express & Star**

## Plan for town's best kept secret are welcomed

PLANS to develop a waterfront area of Stourbridge to capitalise on the town's "best kept secret" have been welcomed by its MP, Margaret James.

Council bosses have outlined proposals to boost the use of the River Stour and visitor numbers as part of its masterplan for the town. They want to encourage development along the riverside to help link it better with the town centre.

The regeneration plan includes new pathways alongside the river and new pedestrian crossing points on parts of the ring road to help make the town centre more accessible on foot or by bicycle. New green space is proposed alongside the banks of the river to help encourage wildlife, create an attractive green landscape setting and promote outdoor recreation such as walking and cycling.

The plan will also improve the Stourbridge Wharf area, by the Stourbridge Branch Canal, with improved visitor attraction facilities.

The scheme forms part of the Stourbridge Area Action Plan, which aims to boost development in the town over the coming years. Miss James said she believed the River Stour was one of the town's "greatest assets" and was a valuable "recreational and nature conservation resource for everyone in the community".

But she said the river was cut off from the town centre by the ring road. "I very much welcome the Action Plan," she said. "The river is Stourbridge's best kept secret, and deserves to be maintained and redeveloped, so I am delighted that these plans are becoming a reality."

# Teacher faces his fears with taste of high life



Neil Bate gets in the swing watched by his students

**TEACHER** Neil Bate was for the high jump when he told his pupils they were banned from playing football after Aston Villa lost a match.

So they got their own back by challenging him to conquer his fear of heights by climbing 55ft up to take on the ropes on an adventure course.

Mr Bate, aged 29, was nominated by his Year 6 class at Rufford Primary School, Stourbridge, to tackle the UK's highest indoor rope course, at Quest in Dudley's Merry Hill shopping centre. In their nomination they cited their reason - the football ban after his team lost.

They also moaned that he made them do a lot of hard work during the school term and that he made them sit out in the cold during lunchtime.

Mr Bate said: "Wonderfully, my class nominated me to face my fears as revenge on me.

"I had to go and climb the highest lev-

els to face my fears." His pupils watched in glee as he looked terrified to start with.

Gradually, he inched further along obstacles including high beams and walk the plank, making a sign of the cross as he went, and eventually got to grips with learning the ropes. His ordeal ended with him facing up to a scary "sheer drop".

Mark Knox, manager at Quest Merry Hill, said: "It was absolutely fantastic to see Mr Bate reach the 17-metre summit.



Teacher Neil Bate braves the high walk

# 1½ PRICE SUITES & BEDS

OPENING TIMES: Monday - Saturday 10am - 6pm, Sunday 10am - 4pm

carpet now available  
from £3.99sq mtr

NEXT TO  
MATALAN



**CARPETS NOW AVAILABLE**  
with Free Fitting  
Terms and conditions apply



**Fabric & Leather Corner**  
Units always in stock



4 door  
wardrobe  
**£299**

(while stocks last)



**Faux Leather**  
Beds from  
**£99**  
(mattress not included)



**Fabric &**  
**Leather**  
**Recliners**  
always in  
stock



**Leather**  
& **Fabric**  
Sets  
from  
**£399**



**Large Range of**  
**Bedroom Furniture**  
Available



(& get 2 free memory pillows worth £14.99 each)

**HUGE SELECTION**  
**OF MATTRESSES**  
**IN STOCK FOR**  
**IMMEDIATE DELIVERY**  
**From**  
**only**  
**£39**



**2 Draw Medium/**  
**Firm Divan** **£199**



**3ft Slide Store**  
**£99**



**End Draw Medium/**  
**Firm Divan** **£179**



**Metal Beds from**  
**Single £39 Double £79**  
(mattress not included)

**1½ PRICE SUITES & BEDS**

Portway Road, Oldbury  
West Midlands B69 2BZ

**Tel: 0121 544 5155**

## Woman, 38 sentenced for waving knife about

A WOMAN waved a knife at a group of youngsters who shouted abuse at her while she was sunbathing, a court was told.

Margaret Holland was seen by police waving the knife in the doorway of a block of flats in Ashenhurst Walk, Dudley, on July 24 last year.

Holland, aged 38, of St John's Road, Tipton, was given a four-month jail sentence suspended for 12 months by Wolverhampton Crown Court.

She was also placed under supervision for a year after admitting a charge of having a bladed article at a previous hearing.

Mr Mark Phillips, prosecuting, said officers attending a separate incident were told a woman was outside a block of flats waving a knife.

She said a group of youths had abused her while she was sunbathing and she had gone to remonstrate with them.

**Safely access your loft!****FULLY FITTED FROM  
£245**

Manufactured to ISO 9002 Standard

**Telephone: 01952 282152  
Mobile: 07817 431505****JEKES'D'LADDERS**

The Local Distributor &amp; Installer for

For more information visit:  
**www.stira.co.uk****the Ticket****More  
Customers  
On A Plate  
Every Friday**To advertise your venue  
call one of our helpful advisors on  
**01902 319898****THIS IS COMPENSATION  
£1500  
NOW & THOUSANDS LATER****CAMPS  
SOLICITORS**

- Accident that wasn't your fault?
- No win, no fee guaranteed
- 100% compensation paid to you
- For accidents up to 3 years ago
- £100m already claimed for clients

Maximum compensation	
Whiplash injury	£5,150
Chronic whiplash injury	£9,000
Thigh bone fracture	£9,200
Forearm fracture	£12,600
Partial hearing loss	£30,000

Up to £1,500 advance compensation when we accept your case &amp; everything that remains when we settle your claim. See website for terms &amp; conditions.

**0800 997 8732**

www.compensation.co.uk

**JOHN T. HARRIS  
BLACKHEATH FURNITURE & BEDROOM CENTRE**Stockists of **Sherborne Upholstery**  
Unbeatable prices on  
3 piece suites, high seated  
chairs 'Lift and Rise' recliners

Quality Reupholstery Service

**0121 559 2402**  
1A Causeway, Blackheath  
Now open Saturday 10am-2pm, Weekdays 10am-4.30pm  
Closed all day Thursday • Private car park • Disabled access**BLACKHEATH CAR &  
COMMERCIAL BREAKERS**All Scrap  
Cars/Commercials Wanted  
**FREE COLLECTION****£££'S**

For Any Complete Car or Van

**39 Nimmings Road,  
Blackheath B62 9JE  
0121 561 4909**

Car spares for most makes sold

**NEWS****Threatened child centres are safe for 12 months**

TWENTY under-threat children's centres in one borough will remain open for at least another 12 months despite cuts in funding that have left their long-term future in jeopardy.

Concerns were raised for Dudley's 20 centres after a grant used to fund them was cut by £2.8million for 2013/14.

But while neighbouring councils, including Wolverhampton, have announced centre closures, Dudley Council's cabinet member for education, Tim Crumpton, said no centres in the borough would shut for at least a year.

Instead, they will all be brought under the council's full control from April 1.

Councillor Crumpton, however, warned changes to the way the services are run were needed. He said: "We have made the decision to ensure no children's centre will close over the next 12 months despite the cut in funding from the Government."

"During the next 12 months we will be holding a consultation on the running of the centres - part of this will be to find how we can run them at a lower cost."

Currently five of the 20 children centres in the borough are managed by a contractor and another three are run by schools. From April 1, all will be fully managed by the council. The move will save £320,000.

Wolverhampton City Council this week announced plans to reduce the number of its centres from 17 to eight after losing £3.88m of funding.

**Staples closes down shop**

STATIONERY chain Staples has closed its store at Merry Hill as part of a "strategic plan to accelerate growth and better serve evolving needs of customers".

Staples has shut its outlet at the Dudley shopping centre as part of its nationwide closure programme of 23 of its 134 stores.

Spokesman for Staples, Olga Joven would not reveal the number of staff redundancies.

**Auditions open for Annie**

Front, from left, from Bilston Operatic Society, Chloe Freeman-Chick, aged 13, Amy Sheffield, 16, back from left, Rebecca Luter, 15, Katie Sanger and Laura Morris, both 16, with Danny the dog

YOUNG stage stars are wanted to audition for a part in *Annie*, a new production to be performed at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre.Auditions will be held for roles, including the lead role of *Annie*, in the show, which will be staged by Bilston Operatic Society. Performers are being invited to show off their talents at auditions at Tettenhall College, Wood Road, Wolverhampton on March 24. Sue Turner,

a committee member of the society for 46 years, said the lead role would be a test for any young starlet, due to the range of qualities they would need to show.

Anyone interested in auditioning for the show should attend Tettenhall College from 9am to 1pm on March 24.

For more information about the auditions call 01902 745739 or email bilstonoperatic@hotmail.co.uk.

**Scarlett Hair & Beauty**

69 Long Lane, Halesowen B62 9LS

Looking for 20%  
off a colour  
or perm?Call today  
for details  
**0121 559 9911**

Authorised Retailers of Paul Mitchell and GHD products

**WELCOME BACK ENNIE!**(formerly of Encore Merry Hill)  
Ennie is returning to work alongside Anmarie. To celebrate her return, any colours / perms booked with Ennie will qualify for a 20% discount until the end of March. (on production of this voucher)**Roses & Ribbons**

9 Howley Grange Road Halesowen B62 0HN

**MOTHER'S DAY**  
WE HAVE A LARGE  
SELECTION OF

- FRESH FLOWERS
  - BOUQUET BUNCHES ETC
  - SELECTION OF PLANTED ARRANGEMENTS INDOOR & OUTDOOR
  - SELECTION OF HOUSE PLANTS
- ORDER NOW OR POP IN  
ALL PRICES TO SUIT YOUR POCKET  
DELIVERY AVAILABLE UNTIL SUNDAY

**0121 421 2111****Did you know?****MNA Media**

Regional press is the most frequently acted upon media, with 61% of people responding to advertising in the medium

Base: Newspaper Society - Consumers Choice V

**L**  
**WINDOWS**  
(HOME IMPROVEMENTS LTD.)

Mucklow Holdings  
Narrow Lane  
Hurst Green  
HALESOWEN  
B62 9PA  
lewindowsltd@live.com

# History of canal tunnels talk to help raise funding

THE history of the Dudley Canal Tunnel and 200-year-old limestone mines will be explored during a fundraising talk this month.

Dudley Canal Trust has helped develop the site into a leading attraction with plans under way for a £3.3m visitors' centre.

Chairman of the Dudley Canal Trust, Vic Smallshire, who founded the organisation 50 years ago, will lead the talk on March 7.

It will delve deeper into work done by the trust which welcomes around 80,000 visitors a year to the attraction on Birmingham New Road, Dudley.

The talk will be held at the Church Hall, in Vicarage Drive, off Kinver High Street, starting at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £7 with

proceeds going to Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge. They are available either from the Hospice shop in Kinver High Street, online from the Hospice website, or from organiser Sylvia Sidaway on 01384 877680 or on the door.

Officials are waiting to hear if they have been successful in securing lottery and European funding to build the heritage and learning centre.

The trust is working alongside Dudley Council which is planning a major redevelopment of the Castle Hill area neighbouring the tunnel. This would better link Dudley Canal Trust with the Black Country Living Museum and Dudley Zoo to create a tourism destination.

# Come dine reunion bid



**DUDLEY** contestants who fought it out in the kitchen on television show **Come Dine With Me** are hoping to hold a reunion.

After a hard-fought week of culinary triumphs and disasters, the five hosts are looking to meet up again.

Vicky Pell, the self-proclaimed Duchess of Dudley, and banker Mandeep Rajput were named joint winners of the show.

Both scored 28 out of 40, beating fellow Dudley residents Adam, Sarah and Di, on the TV show where contestants judge each other's skills as a host and cook.

Grandmother-of-three Vicky, who runs Vicky's Dog Grooming Parlour and Pet Shop in Quarry Bank High Street, said afterwards: "It wouldn't have bothered me if I hadn't won, if I'm honest. I've met some

lovely people and had a fantastic dining experience." Co-winner Mandeep Rajput, who will share the £1,000 prize with Vicky, was the first to host the others with a night featuring Indian cuisine and saucy bhangra dancing. The 38-year-old, a business development manager from Oldbury, said: "When I found out I'd won it was great news but I should have won clear, I think."

"If I'd had to share I would have chosen to share with Vicky but everybody said that, by far, my night came across as the best."

Mandeep said he was trying to organise a reunion of the five contestants. He said: "We all had a right laugh and I got on with everybody."

The episodes were most notable, however, for the conflict between former Kingswinford School pupil Adam Reece, aged 26, and Sedgley spoon-playing pensioner and third place Di Dawson, aged 65.

## Author does card design

A TOP author has designed a new library card for children in the Wyre Forest district and elsewhere in Worcestershire.

Children aged up to 12 will soon be able to get their hands on the card, designed by Liz Pichon, from libraries across the county after it is launched on World Book Day on March 7.

One of the UK's rising stars in children's literature, Pichon was the winner at the 2012 National Book Award.

Author of the popular Tom Gates series, she has included characters from the books in her design.

## Bronte classic is to be staged at centre



Jane Williams, who plays the eponymous heroine Jane Eyre, with Gareth May who will play Mr Rochester

A THEATRE company will be bringing classic novel Jane Eyre to life in a stage production this week.

Dudley Little Theatre will stage the Charlotte Bronte novel in a production, which has been adapted for the stage by Willis Hall, at Netherton Arts Centre.

Mrs Chris Ridgeway, publicity officer at the theatre company, said: "The production is brought to the stage in a way for the audience to see the different stages in the progress of the story. It should be a really interesting production."

"It goes from when she is first at home in the house where she is taken as an orphan and treated very badly and then sent off to a very harsh boarding school to where eventually she becomes a governess and goes to the home of Mr Rochester. It is really a story for all time and is about love conquering adversity."

The production runs from March 6 to 9 at 7.30pm. The arts centre is located on Northfield Road, Netherton.

Tickets are £7, with concessions at £6 and a discount of 10 per cent off sales of 10 or more tickets. They are available from the Dudley Council Plus shop by calling 01384 812812, from Chris Ridgeway on 01384 872583 or 07582 318017, or Specs Maniac of Halesowen.

## Run organisers give charity £4,000 boost

ORGANISERS of a fun run in a West Midland village have presented a cheque for more than £4,000 to a heart health charity.

The Kinver 10k Road Race and 2k family fun run raised £4,275, bringing the total to more than £20,000 in the past six years. Almost 300 runners took part in the race last October in the surrounding roads around the South Staffordshire village.

Cash from the event has been donated to the Dudley charity Action Heart based at Russells Hall Hospital.

Race organiser, rotarian John Pittwood, said the final total was magnificent and thanked all who had paid the cash to support the runners. Overheads for the event had previously been met through financial support from BodyKraft of Pensnett, Safeline Environmental of Hartlebury and the Dudley Motor Company. Action Heart spokeswoman Joy Brown said: "I would like to thank members of Kinver Rotary for organising another successful 10k race."

# MASSIVE SAVINGS Throughout the Store!!

Over 100 suites always in stock

\*\*\*\*\*

Many for immediate delivery



Vast range of beds available from budget to luxury

**FREE** Local Delivery

**FREE** Disposal of your old furniture

**FREE** Disposal of all packaging

**FREE** Set up of all beds\*



Real Leather 3str & 2str  
Was £999 Now £599



Real Leather Suite  
Was £1349 Now £699



Real Leather Suite  
Was £999 Now £599



3str sofa & Swivel Chair  
Was £1172 Now £699



Modern 3str & 2str  
Was £1172 Now £599



Memory Foam Mattresses  
HALF PRICE



Over 100 suites in stock  
MANY HALF PRICE



Aniline Hide Leather Suite  
Was £3295 Now £899



Modern 3str & Chair  
Was £799 Now £399



Debrah Complete Leather Suite  
Was £1199 Now £599



Quality Chenille 2str Suite  
Was £1299 Now £499



Full Leather Reclining Suite  
Was £1999 Now £799



Zodiac Leather 3str & Chair  
Was £1699 Now £799



Fabric Corner Group  
Was £899 Now £499



Beds, Mattresses, Headboards  
ALL 40% OFF



Joynson Holland Rise-Recliners  
Was £1199 Now £499

**FREE**  
Local Delivery  
within 10 miles

**Discount Furniture Outlet**  
Call Today 01384 402522  
Unit 2-6, Stallings Lane, Kingswinford DY6 7BG  
[www.thediscountfurnitureoutlet.co.uk](http://www.thediscountfurnitureoutlet.co.uk) thediscountfurnitureoutlet@gmail.com  
\*On beds over £500

**FREE**  
DISPOSAL OF  
OLD FURNITURE

1st Come  
1st Served

MASSIVE SAVINGS THROUGHOUT THE STORE!

**GARDENING**

# Be patience and earn bedding plant reward

**FEBRUARY** is often the coldest month of the year, but despite this, it's the time when real gardeners start to grow in earnest.

The wise old birds that sow seed in mid winter are able to grow plants that will be ready for planting out at just the right time.

Some bedding plants are relatively slow growers and need several months to transform from seeds to plants ready to flower.

Tender geraniums, begonias and lobelia are examples that ideally need to be sown now so that they receive 18 to 20 weeks of growth and are ready for planting out when frosts are finished around the end of May.

It doesn't matter what the weather is like, as long as you have a warm spot for germination and a bright windowsill on which the seedlings can grow.

You just need patience for this early bird gardening that will save you plenty of money compared with buying garden-ready plants in May.

**Waste**

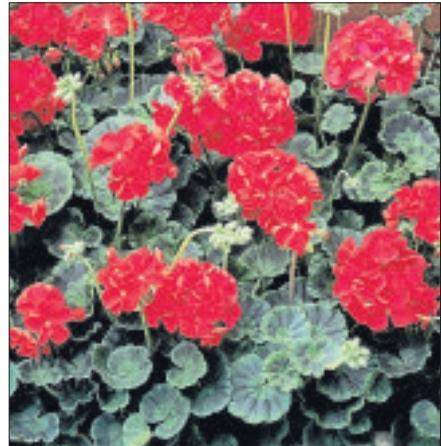
Simply take a clean plastic seed tray and fill it with fresh Miracle-Gro Seed & Cutting Compost.

Use a flat piece of wood to level the surface and then place the tray in a shallow bowl of water to gradually moisten the compost from the bottom.

As with all composts it pays to buy fresh every season as the nutrients available to the roots diminishes gradually after the bag is opened.

Saving pennies by using up old compost is rarely the way to ensure good strong growth.

Instead it can spell disaster and a total waste of your investment in



Geranium such as the Vista Red pictured here, require darkness to germinate and do best in warm conditions of 24C

## Topical tips

Take time to plan your flower borders, beds, hanging baskets and patio pots so you can buy packets of seed, pots of seedling plants or plug plants at the time when there is maximum choice

packets of seed. Follow the pack instruction on your flower seed packet as to whether you should cover the seed with more compost and the temperature required for germination.

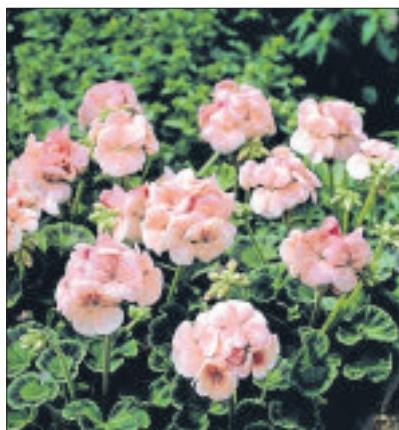
Bedding begonias need light while

geraniums require darkness. To keep the compost evenly moist while germination occurs, I find it useful to cover the tray with a plastic dome or slip the whole seed tray inside a white or clear plastic bag.

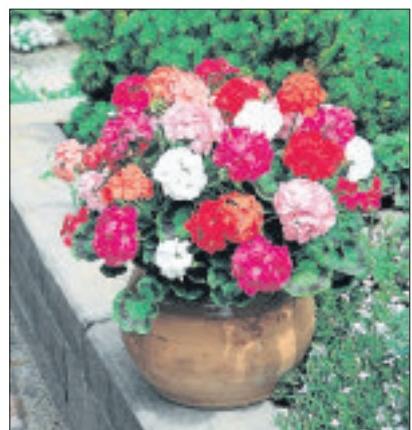
Geraniums, begonia and lobelia germinate best in warm conditions of 24C (75F).

Unfortunately they require this temperature consistently for fastest germination, which is where a thermostatically controlled propagator comes in really handy.

● Words and photographs supplied by John Clowes, of The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company



If you are new to growing geranium from seed try Horizon Salmon, left or Mr Fothergill's Mophead Selection



## Novice gardeners may find seedlings easier

AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO SOWING YOUR OWN, YOUR LOCAL GARDEN CENTRE OR NURSERY WILL SELL READY GERMINATED SEEDLINGS THAT ARE MUCH EASIER FOR NOVICE GARDENERS TO GROW.

A professional plant propagator will have already done the harden work of germination and your job is to give the plant enough space and light to grow to flowering size.

To get these tiny treasures growing fast give them extra room and root space in a tip-top compost of your choice.

Do this immediately after buying or

otherwise the seedlings could easily dry out or grow lanky looking for light.

For best results use trays that are ready separated into individual cells and a rich compost such as Miracle-Gro Expand 'n Gro or Miracle-Gro All Purpose Enriched Compost.

Placed on a sunny windowsill, your plants will take a few weeks to get to a large enough stage that they need small but individual pots.

**Sturdy**

Giving these seedling plants and any others you buy steadily more room for roots to thrive is the best way to encourage sturdy growth.

If you put seedling plants into too big

a pot right from the beginning they do tend to sulk and not grow quickly, mainly because the large amount of compost, relative to the root ball, remains wet and cold.

If you are new to geraniums from seed you will be pleased to find that Thompson & Morgan offer their World's Top Six Mix of 30 seeds for £9 that includes the pink Horizon Salmon or Mr Fothergill's Mophead Selection of several different vibrant colours for just over £3 for 10 seeds.

Alternatively, if you are happy to grow just tradition deep crimson geraniums why not try a packet of Suttons Vista Red that contains 25 seeds for just £3.55?

## star extra TRAVEL London Theatre Breaks



### Choose your show, price band\* and how you want to travel

#### Coach inclusive breaks – Two days



##### Selected weekend departures

**Saturday Night from £129.95**

**Dine and Dance from £139.95**

Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing. For the Dine and Dance option see the matinee performance before heading back to the hotel for dinner and disco (conditions apply). For the Saturday Night option you will see the evening performance. For both breaks the price includes a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options). Pick ups offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.



#### Rail inclusive breaks – Two or three days



##### Departures most weekends

**Saturday Night Theatre from £139.95**

Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital. There's a choice of London hotels and your ticket is for a Saturday evening performance. Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning/early afternoon from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.



**Theatre Showstopper from £189.95**

**Theatre Weekend from £189.95**

These popular theatre packages to the West End depart from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening. Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade. Two nights stay at a three or four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply) and a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance for the Theatre Showstopper package or choose your price band for the Saturday evening performance with the Theatre Weekend package.

\*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details.  
Single room supplements apply.

Arranged by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

For a theatre brochure please call (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm),  
or go to [expressandstar.com/starextratravel](http://expressandstar.com/starextratravel)

Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

# Bill for treating foreign patients hits £45,000

## Foodbank is the chosen charity



Kelvin Bates at food bank in Halesowen which has been named the Ryemarket Shopping Centre's charity of the year

A HALESOWEN foodbank with branches across the Black Country has been chosen by a shopping centre as its sponsored charity for 2013.

The Ryemarket in Stourbridge has offered to fundraise for the Black Country Foodbank and help raise its profile throughout the year.

Wendy Fryatt, who founded the foodbank, said she was "delighted" her organisation had been selected.

She added: "It's absolutely amazing and it will do so much to help raise our profile and hopefully help us raise more donations and recruit more volunteers."

Kelvin Bates, floor house manager at the foodbank's main warehouse, in Little Cornbow, Halesowen, said it fed more than 12,000 people in 2012.

"In this day and age, should there really be a need for foodbanks in civilised society?"

More than a dozen Stourbridge organisations submitted applications to become the shopping centre's charity of the year. Centre manager Kelley Dyas said there had been "several outstanding candidates" but the foodbank was the most deserving as it helped all ages and backgrounds.

## Lady golfers putt in a lot of funding

## Schools to get £8.5m for repairs

LADY golfers have got into the swing of fundraising and handed a cheque for £4,251 to Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice.

The money was raised by the ladies of Hagley Golf and Country Club.

Fundraising events included sales of calendars, depicting members and scenes from around the golf club, a Ladies' Ascot Day and a walk around Mary Stevens Park.

Raffles and a sponsored swim by a member's daughter also brought the cash rolling in.

Celia Shakespeare, lady captain of the club, said: "We are very proud of our contribution."

## Council team victory

SPORTING council workers and councillors raised £270 for charity when they took part in an indoor cricket match.

The staff and councillors, competed on behalf of Team DB (Team Dudley Borough) which was set up earlier this year to help raise money for good causes.

They beat them it out in the match which took place at the old Pensnett High School site. The team of Dudley councillors won the game with one ball to spare.

The match will be followed by a calendar full of events that could also feature bowling, football, swimming, fishing and even dragon boat racing. Following the Olympic success of Team GB in 2012, Dudley Council kicked off the New Year by launching Team DB. Team DB will arrange and take part in charity sports events throughout the year.

**FOREIGN** patients have left Dudley's NHS trust with a bill of more than £45,000 during the past five years, according to new figures that claim hospitals across the region are owed £1 million.

The NHS has been forced to write-off thousands in debt that bosses have been unable to claim back from overseas patients. Britain has healthcare agreements with some countries and provides free NHS care for those living in Britain regardless of nationality, while most other foreign visitors have to pay for non-emergency treatment. But hospitals say there are often complications when trying to claim back the money, and the decision to write off debt is always a last resort.

Overseas patients treated at Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust have clocked up £45,496 debt in the past five years while the trust has had to write off £71,041 of debt during the same period. Some of this would have been accumulated before 2008.

Stourbridge MP Margot James said: "This is an unacceptable use of NHS resources. Hospitals should carry out checks on people's immigration status if there is any doubt about their eligibility for treatment and unless it is a medical emergency or a need for maternity or antenatal care, healthcare treatment should be refused."

Russells Hall Hospital and its foreign patients policy hit the headlines in October 2011 when an illegal immigrant from Pakistan was deported after more than a year at the hospital.

Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust chief executive Paula Clark said: "The trust's turnover is £288 million; the money owed by non EU patients is comparatively small compared to other NHS organisations. However, we take monies owed to the trust seriously and in all cases we vigorously pursue outstanding debt where possible."

Wolverhampton's hospital trust was left with the highest debt in the region. It is owed £757,919.98 from overseas patients and has had to write off £174,428.95.

by Sharon Marrs

## Police to answer questions from people on Web

RESIDENTS can quiz police about crime in their area in a web chat activity next week. Insp Dez Lambert, who is responsible for neighbourhood teams across Halesowen and Stourbridge, will host the internet discussion next Tuesday between 6pm and 8pm. Residents can ask any questions about neighbourhood policing issues of interest or of concern.

Topics of interest also to be covered include the five priorities for the Dudley borough previously requested by residents after consultation.

These include speeding, anti-social behaviour, burglary, drug related crime and retail theft.

Community meetings and the Neighbourhood Watch Association will also be up for discussion.

To take part in the web chat or to observe comments householders should visit the Dudley police homepage at [www.dudley-police.org.uk](http://www.dudley-police.org.uk) and click the "play" button.

## New deal for accountants

HALESOWEN chartered accountancy firm Nicklin has continued its expansion with another takeover deal, this time acquiring Crowther Beard of Worcester.

No price-tag is being put on the deal which is the second merger for Nicklin in the space of eight months.

The deal will see Crowther Beard, which also has an office in Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, changing its name to Nicklin, although it will continue to work from its present offices.

Activities have been scheduled at reserves

A HOST of activities will take place at nature reserves in Dudley over the coming weeks.

A walk through The Leasowes, Halesowen will take place on March 16 from 10am to noon to explore the Grade 1 listed site. This will also feature the new Coombe Wood Nature Reserve.

Places need to be booked by on 01384 814642. Participants should meet at the wardens' base, off Mucklow Hill.

A six-mile walk will be at Buckpool and Fens Pool on March 21 from 10am to 1.30pm crossing the River Stour.

Walkers will set off from the wardens' office at Dell Stadium, at the junction of Bryce Road and Pensnett. Bookings can be made on 01384 812780.

## Trade Prices to the Public

Full Bathroom Suites from just £300

Vitra TROJAN

HAVISTOCK

FEEDBACK AQUALISA

### P AND L SHAPED BATHS



INCLUDES:  
towl rail, bath, bath screen with safety glass.

### Quality Modern Suites



Toilet +  
Basin  
From Just  
**£120**

### 1050 Combi Unit



Was  
**£399** Sale Price  
**£299**



NEW Walk in Showers  
with tray and glass screen  
from £350

Waterfall  
Basin Mixer,  
waterfall bath  
filler and waste  
**£150**

Round and  
Square  
Twin  
Showers  
from £200

### TUBULAR RADIATORS



600 x 1200  
Only  
**£75**

### QUADRANT ENCLOSURES



**£199**

The cheapest supply and fit in the Midlands



The  
Bathroom shop

Pop in and see us, these prices can't last forever

52 LYDE GREEN, HALESOWEN, WEST MIDLANDS B63 2PG  
**01384 634856 or 07533 978667**  
[www.thebathroomshopcradley.co.uk](http://www.thebathroomshopcradley.co.uk)

# star extra TRAVEL

For brochures please call (01902) 319999 (Mon to Fri, 9am to 5pm)  
or go to [expressandstar.com/starextratravel](http://expressandstar.com/starextratravel)

## Portofino, Florence and Tuscany

Eight days, selected dates April to October



**PRICE FROM** £589

This holiday to Italy is based in one of Tuscany's most celebrated spa resorts, Montecatini Terme, and you have a choice of staying in one of two comfortable hotels.

The sun-blessed resort of Montecatini Terme is located close to many of the province's greatest cities and boasts beautiful parks, gardens, stylish shops and restaurants.

Above the main town, and reached by an historic funicular railway, you will find the stunning, fortified medieval quarter of Montecatini Alto with its sweeping piazza and winding streets lined with ancient churches and elegant palazzos.

During your stay you will tour the Ligurian coast with time in elegant Santa Margherita. This is followed by a boat trip to ultra-chic Portofino, which despite the crowds, glitz and glamour, remains one of the Mediterranean's most idyllic settings.

Perhaps one of the highlights of the holiday will be the trip to Florence, dominated by the dome of the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore and home to the famous galleries of Accademia and Uffizi (entrances payable locally).

Two optional excursions are also offered, the first visiting Pisa and Lucca, and the second to the Ligurian coast and the Cinque Terre, a quintet of ancient villages squeezed into a series of tiny coves.

### INFO

- Return flights from Manchester and London airports
- Seven nights half-board accommodation
- Full day visit to Portofino
- Full day tour to Florence
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by  
Newmarket Air Holidays (ABTA V7812, ATOL 2325)

Pick  
of the  
week

STAR EXTRA TRAVEL, the travel department of the Express & Star, offers a wide range of short breaks and holidays. For your security, our tour operators are members of ABTA – the Travel Association and hold an ATOL (Air Travel Organisers Licence) for holidays by air. Prices are per person (unless otherwise stated). Please note Star Extra Travel is unable to take bookings over the telephone. Please read brochures/web pages for full description plus terms and conditions. Dates subject to availability. Coach pick up points offered: Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

## Kew Gardens Tree Tops Walk and Hampton Court

Two days departing June 22

**PRICE FROM** £129

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Entrance to Kew Gardens and Rhizotron and Xstrata Treetop Walkway
- Entrance to Hampton Court Palace, Gardens and Maze
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

## Lindisfarne and The Alnwick Garden

Three days departing June 28 and Sept 20

**PRICE FROM** £165

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Entrance to The Alnwick Garden
- Visits to Durham, Bamburgh and Lindisfarne
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

## The Eden Project and the Lost Gardens of Heligan

Four days departing July 12 and 19

**PRICE FROM** £249

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Entrance to the Lost Gardens of Heligan and the Eden Project
- Visit to Torquay
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

## Norfolk Gardens and the Lavender Harvest

Three days departing July 19

**PRICE FROM** £219

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Tour of the Norfolk Lavender Fields and Distillery
- Cream tea
- Entrance to the Bressingham Steam Centre and Gardens
- Entrance to Sandringham House and Gardens
- Visit to Cambridge
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond (ABTA W0552)

## Royal Ascot on Ladies Day

Day trip departing June 20

**PRICE FROM** £89.95

- Return coach travel
- Brunch-time full English breakfast with a glass of sparkling wine
- Admission to the Silver Ring enclosure (upgrade offered)
- Services of a coach driver/tour representative

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

## Chelsea Flower Show

Two days departing May 24

**PRICE FROM** £169.95

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Admission to the Chelsea Flower Show
- Visit to Windsor
- Services of a coach driver/tour representative
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

## London Shopping Breaks

Two days selected monthly departure dates

**PRICE FROM** £99.95

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Free time in London for shopping and sightseeing
- Services of a coach driver/tour representative
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

## Spalding Flower Parade and Barnsdale Gardens

Two days departing May 4

**PRICE FROM** £99.95

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visit to Spalding Flower Parade
- Entrance to Geoff Hamilton's Barnsdale Gardens
- Visit to Stamford
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

## Dubrovnik, the Dalmatian Coast and Montenegro

Eight days various departure dates

**PRICE FROM** £799

- Return flights
- Seven nights half-board accommodation
- Tour of Dubrovnik
- Visits to Trogir and Mostar
- Tour of Montenegro
- Visit to Split and tour of the Emperor Diocletian's monumental palace
- Visit to Krka National Park and its waterfalls
- Escorted by a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

## Monet's Garden Rouen and Paris

Four days departing May 17, Aug 2, Oct 18

**PRICE FROM** £175

- Return coach travel and Channel crossings
- Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Visit to Giverny including admission to Monet's House and Gardens
- Visits to Rouen and Paris
- Optional excursions offered
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

## Bruges by Eurostar

Four days various departure dates

**PRICE FROM** £249

- Return standard class seat on Eurostar
- Return rail connection to London (selected dates)
- Return coach transfers overseas
- Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Guided walking tour of Bruges
- Visit to a traditional chocolate maker
- Visit to Ypres and the First World War battlefields
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Certain entrance fees payable locally

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744)



## NEWS

# Dramatic ins-purr-ation from a teacher and a cat

Young Wolverhampton actor Richard Astbury is returning to the city in the hit musical Cats. He talks to Peter Madeley about how he got into drama

**A YOUNG** Wolverhampton actor is coming home to perform the biggest role of his life in the hit musical Cats at the Grand Theatre.

And Richard Astbury is looking forward to playing in his home city.

"Some of my friends and family haven't seen me perform since my school days," the 21-year-old who family still live in Castlecroft said.

"The last time I played at the Grand was a small part in West Side Story when I was 17, but it's nice to return to Wolverhampton in such a big production."

"Cats is a show I have always wanted to do."

## Adapt

In preparation for his feline role, Richard was fortunate enough to receive some training from an expert.

He said: "My character, Coricopat, is a quiet cat with the ability to see what is happening before most of the other characters."

"Luckily I've got a cat at home called Shadow, and he was a real inspiration."

"Watching him move around at home helped me learn how to adapt my body to play the role of a cat."

Richard credits one of his former head teacher at Castlecroft Primary School for encouraging him to attend auditions as a youngster.

He said: "Tish Keech used to send me out to auditions all over the Midlands."

"She helped me to land lead roles in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat while I was in Year 5, and A



Richard Astbury as Coricopat in Cats, which comes to The Grand, and right, without his feline form

Christmas Carol the following year."

Richard continued honing his craft at Smestow School and also spent time treading the boards at Stagecoach Theatre Arts School and Wolverhampton Musical Comedy Company.

Last year he gained a degree in musical theatre from Arts Education School, London.

"It was the most amazing three years of my life, and a great introduction into the professional world of musical theatre," he said.

Richard is currently in Edinburgh going through the final stages of rehearsals.

He said: "It has been an exhausting five weeks, but the whole experience has been very rewarding. We had to

learn the show in a short period of time, meaning eight hours of rehearsals each day."

Based on T.S. Eliot's Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats, Andrew Lloyd Webber's record-breaking musical is a real favourite with theatre goers.

Vicky Price, the Grand's PR manager, said: "Cats is returning to the Grand for the first time in a decade and promises to be a real highlight of our spring programme.

"As the only Midlands venue on the UK tour, the demand for tickets has been high and we are delighted with the responses we have had from audiences so far."

Cats opens at the Grand on March 19 and runs until March 30.

# YOUR Party, YOUR Way...

Let's create your memories together



## Weddings, Birthdays, Children's Parties, Events

- You choose your music for your special occasion
- TXT requests available, so no embarrassing moments
- Not just lights, but a light show
- Reliability guaranteed
- Fully insured
- PAT Tested equipment
- 15% off all bookings before 30.04.2013

If you want professional DJ & Event Management, where it's your choice that counts... call 07817 917 263  
Email: [enquiries@secondcitymusicuk.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@secondcitymusicuk.co.uk) Find us on:

## YOU SAY WE PLAY

**SECOND CITY MUSIC**  
SOUND • LIGHTING

# Saltwells Inn *good food at great prices!*

## FAMILIES ALWAYS WELCOME

2 outside play areas *Plus*  
A Kids playroom  
Huge beer garden

**CARVERY**  
available lunch times  
Monday to Friday 12pm - 3pm, Saturday 12pm - 5pm

**£3.99**

**\*25% Off**

your main meals with this voucher  
Valid until 15th March 2013 Families always welcome

\*Offer excludes carvery

### GREAT EARLYBIRD SAVING

Mon - Fri 3 - 7pm &

Sat 12 - 5pm

### MONDAY

Pie & Pud Night 5pm to 9pm

Only £5.95

### TUESDAY

Steak Night after 5 pm

### FRIDAY

Curry Night with every homemade curry ordered receive a FREE pint\*\*

### SUNDAY

Sunday Lunch 2 courses Only £5.25



Find us on  
Facebook

Saltwells Lane, Dudley DY51AX  
**01384 569224**

[www.saltwellsinn.co.uk](http://www.saltwellsinn.co.uk)

\*Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer or promotion.  
Not available Bank Holidays. \*\*Pint of Carlsberg, Tetleys, small Wine or draught pop

## What's On! Halesowen

### Folk sound of the Fureys in concert

Irish folk music legends - The Fureys and Davy Arthur will be appearing for a special St Patrick's weekend concert on Saturday March 16 at Dudley Town Hall.

Renowned for their hits When You Were Sweet 16, The Green fields of France, Red Rose cafe, From Clare to here and many more. The Fureys have been entertaining audiences worldwide for 35 years.

Their fans include former Irish President Mary McAleese.

The concert starts at 7.30pm and tickets are £20.00

### Dudley's darker side on display

COFFINS and cholera, monks and murder, riots, plagues, preachers, pickpockets and prostitutes will be on show in a celebration of the darker side of Dudley.

They will all be around in a tour that will throw up some of the odd characters from Dudley's past.

Due to the content of some stories, it is not recommended for anyone under 16.

The tour will start at the Court Public House, New Street on Sunday March 24 at 7pm. Tickets are £7.00.

### Ken's happiness

KEN Dodd's Happiness Show is coming to Dudley Town Hall this weekend. The marathon show on Saturday March 9 starts at 7pm. Tickets are £20.00 and £18.00

# Phantom to haunt theatre with his music of the night

THE PHANTOM of the Opera arrives at Birmingham Hippodrome on Wednesday for an eight-week season, the final venue on the much-loved show's 25th anniversary tour.

Cameron Mackintosh's spectacular touring version marks a quarter century since Andrew Lloyd Webber's blockbuster musical first opened in London's theatreland, where it still runs at Her Majesty's Theatre.

One of the most popular West End phantoms, Earl Carpenter, will don the mask as the eerie figure who controls the career of soprano Christine, played by Katie Hall, from behind the scenes... and murdering anyone at the Paris Opera who gets in the way of his ambitions for her.

The musical is known for its stunning set pieces, including the Masquerade costume ball, the Phantom's subterranean lair and a certain something involving a chandelier.

#### Angel

The songs have become some of the most popular in musical theatre, including The Music of the Night, Think of Me and All I Ask Of You.

Tickets to see the Phantom's doomed love affair with his 'Angel of Music' have been in such demand that the Hippodrome has put on extra matinee performances.

For the latest news on tickets see the theatre's website or call 0844 338 5000.



Earl Carpenter is to portray The Phantom of the Opera  
Picture by Alistair Muir

## Again, again, never again for Quo



Still rockin' - Rick Parfitt and Francis Rossi of Status Quo seen in action last year

THE Status Quo gigs at Wolverhampton Civic Hall tonight (Thursday) and on March 13 mark the only opportunities to catch the return of the original line-up.

Quo guitar stalwarts Francis Rossi and Rick Parfitt will be joined by Alan Lancaster and John Coghlan for a one-off set of reunion dates. These include two gigs at Wolverhampton after the March 13 concert sold out in minutes, prompting tonight's extra date.

#### History

Status Quo manager Simon Porter said: "This is a real moment in the chequered history of Status Quo and it comes after 30 years of acrimony and ten years of law suits and court battles. Just two years ago the thought of the Frantic Four performing again was unthinkable. Now, 50 years on from when Francis and Alan first performed together as schoolboys, it is fitting that everything has come full circle."

Tonight's gig at the Civic is also set to sell out the venue.

### Unmythable time at the Town Hall

LEGENDARY Greek heroes are all set to take you on a journey of a lifetime.

The greatest myths from Jason and the Argonauts to the Odyssey and the man with the original golden touch King Midas are packed into just one hour.

Whether you're new to Greek myths or a diehard fan, come onboard for Unmythable, the award-winning theatre, storytelling and songs.

Stourbridge Town Hall will be scene of epic fights and fantastical flights in an adventure which has something for everyone.

The show starts at 7.30pm on Friday March 15. Tickets are £7.00.

School parties will be in attendance at the show.

### Bronte's story of devotion and love

CHARLOTTE Bronte's classic Jane Eyre will be performed by Dudley Little Theatre until Saturday March 9.

The story is of the love of a plain but passionate girl for the embittered and lonely Mr Rochester.

The performances will be at the Netherton Arts Centre at 7.30pm and tickets are £7 for adults and £6 concession.

### Sketchbook show

THE Fox Sketchbook is an exhibition by Dudley Museum and Art Gallery of recently gained works, from local artist Ernest Fox which are on show until March 9, entry is free.

# The Knights Quest

High Street, Blackheath 0121 561 5599

Publis House & Entertainment Venue • Carvery & Grill

**Great Bar • Great Food • Great Entertainment!**

### MARCH

Friday 8th

#### THE AUDIO HEROES

Saturday 9th

#### OTC ... OFF THE CHARTS !!!

Sunday 10th

#### SUNDAY NIGHT IS KARAOKE NIGHT !!!

Monday 11th

#### SHANES KARAOKE NIGHT

Tuesday 12th

#### PREDATORS KARAOKE AT THE KNIGHTS QUEST

Wednesday 13th

#### ADRIAN MICHAELS

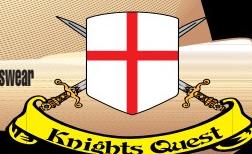
Thursday 14th

#### STARMAKERS KARAOKE



Sunday Carvery £4.95 12 noon-5 pm

**CARVERY TIMES**  
Mon-Thurs 12.00-2.30 pm, 6-8 pm  
Fri-Sat 12.00-2.30 pm  
**Only £3.45**  
**GREAT STEAK & GRILL DEALS**  
**NEW MENU**  
Featuring Grills and Succulent Steaks  
Available 7 days a week



## Hassle Free Days Out and Short Breaks

- WESTON SUPER MARE (2 seats for £25)  
Monday 1st April (Bank Holiday)
- WEST MIDLANDS SAFARI PARK  
Thursday 4th April (Half Term)
- WELLESBOURNE MARKET & STRATFORD UPON AVON  
Saturday 6th April (2 seats £20)
- DRAYTON MANOR THEME PARK & ZOO  
Tuesday 9th April (Half Term)
- LLANDUDNO - Day Trip from £14.00  
Saturday 13th April (Half Term)
- TORQUAY - 5 DAYS HALF BOARD, Derwent Hotel,  
Just £249 p/p Tribute to the Stars,  
Mon 24th June

BOOK TODAY  
Pick up point in  
Halesowen



**Kings Norton Coaches**

Call for a 2013 Excursion Brochure  
**0121 550 8519**

or view on-line at: [www.kingsnortoncoaches.co.uk](http://www.kingsnortoncoaches.co.uk)  
12-53 seater coaches available for private hire  
Airport/Seaport and City Transfers - Stag and Hen Parties

## Highlights & Perms from £20

includes Cut & Blow Wave

Senior Citizens Day  
- EVERY DAY!



**Spray Tans**  
from just £10

**Local Mobile Hairdresser**

Call Today -  
**07858 012271**

Tanning Available In Your Own Home!

# What's On!

## SATURDAY'S TV 9.03.13

### CHOICE



Jonathan Ross

### The Jonathan Ross Show ITV, 9.20pm

In 1978, Grease became one of the best-loved musicals of all time; it spawned three number ones for Olivia Newton-John, and helped breathe new life into her career. Despite subsequent film vehicles Xanadu, and Two of a Kind failing to recapture the same magic, her 1981 album Physical became a soundtrack for the "Jane Fonda Workout" generation. Recently a new wave of fans have become devoted to her, thanks to appearances on Glee and the ongoing appeal of Grease. This week, Olivia drops into the studio to plug her UK tour.

### BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast.** **11.00 Saturday Kitchen** Live. **11.30 Nigella Slater's Simple Cooking.** (R) **12.00 BBC News** Regional News. **12.15 Weather.** **12.15 Football Focus.** **1.00 Bargain Hunt.** (R) **2.00 Live Six Nations Rugby Union.** **4.25 BBC News: Regional News, Weather.** **4.35 Live Six Nations Rugby Union.**

**7.00 Let's Dance for Comic Relief.** Alex Jones and Steve Jones present the celebs - including Tim Vine, The Soap Stars, Antony Cotton and Katherine Ryan - take to the floor one last time. Last in the series.

**8.25 The National Lottery: It to Win It.** Dale Winton presents the quiz in which five contestants put their wits to scoop a big cash prize. Includes the National Lottery draws, presented by Jenni Falconer.

**9.15 Casualty.** Ash and Zoe struggle to make a teenage boy accept the severity of his father's condition, while Linda has a pregnant woman cope with her no-good boyfriend.

**10.05 BBC News: Weather.**

**10.25 Match of the Day.** Highlights of the latest matches in the Premier League, including Reading v Aston Villa at the Madejski Stadium and Queens Park Rangers v Sunderland. **10.30 National Lottery: It to Win It.**

**11.25 The Football League Show.** Highlights and all the goals from today's fixtures in the Championship, League One and League Two, including Crystal Palace v Leeds United at Selhurst Park.

**12.35 Film:** *Color of Night.* (1994) Thriller, starring Bruce Willis. **2.30 Weatherview.** **2.35 BBC News.**

### BBC2

**6.00 This Is BBC Two.** **7.30 Great British Menu.** (R) **8.30 Great British Menu.** (R) **9.00 Great British Menu.** (R)

**9.30 Great British Menu.** (R) **10.00 A History of Britain by Simon Schama.** (R) **11.00 Meet the Ancestors.** (R) **11.30 The Sky at Night.** (R) **11.50 Coast.** **12.00 Indian Food Made Easy.** (R) **12.30 MasterChef: The Professionals.** (R) **1.30 Talking Pictures.** **2.20 Film:** *The Man from Laramie.* (1955) Western, starring James Stewart. **4.00 Coast.** (R) **4.30 Final Score.** **5.30 Flog It!**

**6.30 Your Paintings: A Culture Show Special.** Alastair Gray and David Grossman explore a website showcasing all publicly owned oil paintings held in collections across the United Kingdom.

**7.30 Top Gear Africa Special – Part One.** Part one of two. Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May visit Africa on a mission to find the definitive source of the Nile using grit, ingenuity and ageing estate cars. (R)

**8.30 Dad's Army.** An exercise with the regular army goes well, until Mainwaring assumes the role of an emergency. Comedy, starring Arthur Lowe and Clive Dunn. (R)

**9.00 Film:** *Made in Dagenham.* (2010) Premiere. Fact-based comedy drama, starring Sally Hawkins and Miranda Richardson.

**10.30 Ford's Dagenham Dream.** The changing fortunes of the car manufacturer. (R)

**11.50 Film:** *Bat'21.* (1988) Thriller, starring Gene Hackman.

**1.30 This Is BBC Two.**

### ITV

**6.00 CITV:** Mickey Mouse Clubhouse. **6.25 The Hive.** (R) **6.35 The Hive.** (R) **6.45 Dino Dan.** (R) **7.00 Dino Dan.** (R) **7.20 Animals.** (R) **7.20 Animals.** (R) **7.20 Animals.** (R) **7.20 Animals.** (R)

**8.00 Bookaboo.** **7.40 Matt Hatter Chronicles.** (R) **8.05 Ultimate Spider-Man.** **8.30 Victorious.** **9.00 Jessie.** **9.25 ITV News.** **9.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** **10.25 My Task.** Travel show, featuring Beijing. (R) **11.25 All Star Family Fortunes.** (R) **12.10 ITV News: Weather.** **12.15 Live FA Cup Football.** **3.00 The Chase:** Celebrity Special. (R) **4.00 Midsummer Murders.** (R)

**6.00 Regional Programme:** Weather.

**6.15 ITV News:** Weather.

**6.30 You've Been Framed!**

**Motorcycle mayhem,** garden-based gaffes and swimming pool traps. (R)

**7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway.** Little Ant and Dec interview Justin Bieber.

**8.20 The Cube.** A personal trainer and an occupational therapist try to complete a series of increasingly difficult tasks in the hope of winning a jackpot of £20,000. Phillip Schofield hosts.

**9.20 The Jonathan Ross Show.** With Keith Lemon, Olivia Newton-John and Nicole Scherzinger.

**10.20 ITV News:** Weather.

**10.35 FA Cup Football Highlights.**

Action from the first two sixth-round ties.

**11.35 Celebrity Who Wants To Be a Millionaire? Mother's Day Special.** With David Williams, Olly Murs and Patsy Palmer. (R)

**12.40 Jackpot247.** Interactive gaming. **3.00 In Plain Sight.** (R) **3.45 ITV Nightscreen.**

### CHANNEL 4

**6.15 Sali Mall.** (R) **6.20 The Treacle People.** (R) **6.35 The Grid.** **7.00 Jump Boys:** Channel 4 Racing. **7.30 The Grid.** (R) **7.45 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **8.25 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **9.35 Frasier.** (R) **10.50 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **11.20 The Simpsons.** (R) **12.20 The Simpsons.** (R) **12.45 Undercover Boss USA.** (R) **1.45 Coronation Street.** **4.15 Come Dine With Me.** (R) **5.10 Come Dine With Me.** (R) **5.45 Come Dine With Me.** (R)

**6.15 Come Dine With Me.** Susan Rogers hosts the final evening in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire. (R)

**6.45 Channel 4 News.**

**6.45 4thought.tv.** A member of the public talks about atheist "churches".

**7.00 The Queen's Hidden Treasures.** Two pieces of the Queen Mother who were born with learning difficulties. (R)

**8.00 Kevin McCloud's Man Made Home.** An experiment where dog excrement is used to create methane. (R)

**9.00 Film:** *Skyline.* (2010) Premiere. A couple try to escape when alien spacecraft descend from the sky, massacring and capturing the humans below. Sci-fi thriller, with Eric Balfour and Scottie Thompson.

**10.50 Film:** *The Hole.* (2001) Thriller, with Thora Birch and Keira Knightley.

**12.50 Ricky Gervais:** *Science.* (R) **1.45 Hollyoaks.** **3.50 What's Fufu?** (R) **3.55 Deal or No Deal?** (R) **4.50 Countdown.** (R) **5.35 Kirstie's Vintage Gems.** (R) **5.45 Baking Mad** with Eric Lanlard. (R)

### CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake!** **10.10 Power Rangers Samurai.** (R) **10.45 Batman: The Brave and the Bold.** (R) **11.00 The Blue Planet.** (R) **11.10 Robson's Extreme Fishing Interceptors.** (R) **12.15 Film:** *Carnal Innocence.* (2011) **3.05 Film:** *Columbo: A Trace of Murder.* (1997) **4.55 Film:** *Yanks.* (1979) **7.15 5 News Week.**

**7.20 CSI: NY.** A model is found apparently electrocuted in a giant Martini glass high above New York. She and a robbery-homicide cop at a restaurant turns into a full-blown hostage crisis. (R)

**8.10 NCIS.** The team heads into the desert to locate an artist who might be able to help solve the murder of a fellow agent, and DiNozzo learns he is in line for an inheritance. (R)

**9.10 NCIS.** Vance insists on taking the case into his own hands into the fatal shooting of a boxer—but finds his past coming under scrutiny as the case unfolds. (R)

**10.05 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.** A couple are found murdered in a truck, prompting the detectives to investigate a Mexican drug cartel linked to the two victims—but the case proves more complex than expected.

**11.00 Law & Order: Criminal Intent.** A murder is linked to a psychological study.

**11.55 Inside Hollywood.** Magazine show. (R)

**12.05 SuperCasino.** (R) **4.00 HouseBusters.** (R) **4.25 Divine Designs.** (R) **4.50 County Secrets.** (R) **5.05 Hana's Helpline.** (R) **5.15 The Milkshake! Show.** (R) **5.40 Thomas & Friends.** (R) **5.50 Royal** the Racing Car. (R)

### DIGITAL

#### BBC Three

**7.00 Merlin.** **7.45 Doctor Who.** **8.35 Film:** *The Sorcerer's Apprentice.* (2010) **10.15 Bluestone 42.** **10.45 World's Craziest Foods.** **11.15 Guy.**

#### BBC Four

**7.00** **Britain's Natural World – A Highland Haven.** **8.00** **Carved with Love: The Genius of British Woodwork.** **9.00** **Spiral 4: State of Terror.** **10.50** **Blonde: One Way or Another.**

#### ITV2

**3.35** **You've Been Framed!** **6.10 Film:** *Beethoven* (1991) **7.55 Film:** *Ocean's Thirteen* (2007) **10.20 Celebrity Juice.** **11.10 Film:** *Love Actually* (2003)

#### ITV3

**3.55 Film:** *The Magnificent Two* (1967) **5.50** **Death of a Salesman.** (1947) **6.00 Lewis.** A man is found dead in the Bodleian Library basement. **9.00** *Foyles War.* **11.05 Film:** *Dead Calm* (1989)

#### ITV4

**3.30** **Tartan Triumphs** **4.00 Amazing Argentina.** **5.00 Film:** *Destry* (1954) **7.00 TT Legends.** **7.30** **GT Academy.** **8.00** **River Monsters:** Killer Shads and Rays. **9.00** **Film:** *Kill the Conqueror* (1997) **11.00 Film:** *Enter the Dragon* (1973)

#### ITV5

**3.35** **Rules of Engagement** **6.00** **The Big Bang Theory.** **7.00 Happy Endings.** **8.00** **How I Met Your Mother.** **8.30** **2 Broke Girls.** **9.00 Film:** *Date Movie* (2006) **10.40** **Ricky Gervais:** *Science* **11.45** **The Big Bang Theory.**

#### ITV4

**2.35** **Swiss Family Robinson** (1960) **5.10** **The Last Mimzy** (2007) **7.00** **Turner & Hooch** (1989) **9.00** **Hitman** (2007) **10.50** **Eli Roth on Horror** **10.55** **The Last Exorcism** (2010)

Please tell me how I can claim my FREE TV Amplifier  
Mr  Mrs  Ms  (please tick) Other \_\_\_\_\_  
First name \_\_\_\_\_  
Surname \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_  
The National Campaign for Better Hearing is a trading name of Amplifon Ltd.  
Simply address your envelope to FREEPOST Amplifon.  
(No further address details or stamp required.)

LOC060315SS  


As part of Amplifon's National Campaign for Better Hearing we are now giving enquirers with hearing difficulties a FREE TV Amplifier to help with everyday sounds around the home - great for conversation, listening to TV, radio, even birds singing! Most people with hearing difficulties could benefit from this offer.

**Hurry limited stock available.**

FREEPHONE 0800 023 48 62

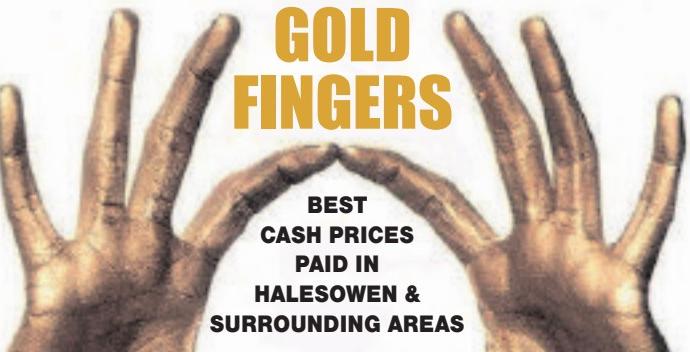
Quote LOC0603

**"I first realised I was losing my hearing when I was struggling to hear the TV. I now wear hearing aids and no one complains about the volume on the TV anymore."**

  
Dr Chris Steele MBE

# THE PLAZA MALL

## MARKET PLACE HALESOWEN



**GOLD FINGERS**

**BEST CASH PRICES PAID IN HALESOWEN & SURROUNDING AREAS**

**\*WATCHES \*SILVER \*DIAMOND \*GOLD \*PLATINUM**

We sell and repair jewellery etc - FREE QUOTES. Knowledgeable staff previously from The Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham.

**BOWJANGLES FOREIGN EXCHANGE NOW AVAILABLE WITH 0% COMMISSION**

Tel: 07740193369 / 07706816144

PHOTO ID NECESSARY

# STOP PAIN...

**..With our specialist in Acupuncture, Acupressure, Cupping & Ear Candle**



We can help if you

- Suffering with pains in neck, shoulder, elbow, lower back & knee
- Suffer with pain or arthritis, trapped nervous, soft tissue injury & sciatica
- Suffer with pain from swollen joints after operations such as hip replacement and knee replacement
- Suffer with overweight

UK Registered 20 Years Experience

10B Peckingham Street, Halesowen 0121 585 9393



**What's On!**

Listings supplied by Press Association

**SUNDAY'S TV 10.03.13****CHOICE****Douglas Henshall****BBC1**

- 6.00 Breakfast.** 7.55 Match of the Day. **8.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics: Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.25** Countryfile. **12.30** Call the Midwife. **12.20** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. **5.00** Escape to the Country. **(R) 5.30** Songs of Praise. **6.05** **Deadly 60 on a Mission.** Komodo dragons, Bengal tigers and Egyptian vultures in Action. **6.35** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **7.00** **Countryside: A Royal Appointment.** The team visits Prince Charles's Gloucestershire estate for a special edition in which his royal highness talks about his passion for the countryside and love of organic farming, including Weather for the Week Ahead. **8.00** **Call the Midwife.** Chummy and Peter prepare for the arrival of their baby and Jenny's love life is looking up – but then the future of the convent comes under threat. Last in the series. **9.00** **Shetland.** A woman's shooting in the Shetlands leads the police to investigate a long-standing feud between two families. Two-part murder mystery, starring Douglas Henshall. **10.00** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **10.25** **Match of the Day 2.** Highlights of the day's Premier League contests. **11.25** **Regional Programme.** **11.55** **The Apprentice USA.** The team help to promote a new perfume. **12.40** **The Apprentice USA.** 1.25 Weatherview. **1.30** BBC News.

**BBC2**

- 6.00** This Is BBC Two. **6.50** Film: The Las Vegas Story. **(1992) 8.15** Life in a Copper Garden with Carol Klein. **(R) 8.45** Gardeners' World. **9.15** The A to Z of TV. **9.30** Gardening. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** The Little Paris Kitchen: Cooking with Rachel Khoo. **(R) 12.00** EastEnders. **(R) 2.15** Coast. **3.00** Sea City. **(R) 3.30** Sea City. **(R) 4.00** Sea City. **(R) 4.30** Reservation Home. **(R) 5.30** Flog It! **6.30** **Farm & Drink.** A discussion on Italian food with guest Angela Hartnett. **(R) 7.00** **Dragons' Den.** An ex-boxer's pitching style proves to be a big hit, a chip-shop owner showered the panel in confetti and three friends from north London demonstrate their smiting skills. **(R) 7.30** **Top Gear Africa Special – Part Two.** Part two of two. Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May conclude their quest to find the source of the River Nile in Africa using three old estate cars. Last in the series. **9.00** **Toughest Place to Be a Taxi Driver.** New series. A London cabby tests his skills on the streets of the capital. **10.00** **Mark the Web Looks Back at Animals.** A selection from the show's archives on the theme of animals. **10.30** **Dancing on the Edge: Interviewing Louis.** Companion piece to Stephen Poliakoff's drama, starring Chiwetel Ejiofor. **11.35** **Six Nations Rugby Union.** Highlights of the fourth round of matches. **12.20** **Film:** Catch a Fire. **(2006) 1.25** Gign Zone: Holly City. **(R) 2.55** Being Eileen. **(R) 3.25** This Is Jeremy Kyle Show. **(R)**

**ITV**

- 6.00** CITV: Mickey Mouse Clubhouse. **6.25** The Hobbs. **(R) 6.35** The Hive. **(R) 6.45** Dino Dan. **(R) 7.00** Ding-Dong. **7.10** Canimals. **7.20** Canimals. **7.25** Bookaboo. **7.40** Matt Hatter Chronicles. **(R) 8.05** Rated A for Awesome. **8.15** Rated A for Awesome. **8.30** Almost Naked Animals. **(R) 8.45** Almost Naked Animals. **8.50** The Aquabats Super Show. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. **(R) 11.20** Dickinson's Real Deal. **(R) 12.25** ITV News: Weather. **12.30** Film: Carry On Girls. **(1973) 2.10** Doc Martin. **(R) 3.15** All Star Family Fortunes. **(R) 4.00** Live FA Cup Football. **6.45** **Regional Programme:** Weather. **6.50** **ITV News:** Weather. **7.00** **Dancing on Ice.** The three remaining stars battle it out in the final. The last most popular go on to skate a self-choreographed version of Torvill and Dean's Bolero routine. Last in the series. **9.00** **Mr Selfridge.** King Edward VII invites Harry to be his guest on the first night of Ellen Love's play at the theatre, and Rose agrees to attend. But it costs her decision. Last in the series. **10.00** **ITV News at Ten:** Weather. **10.15** **FA Cup Football Highlights.** Action from the concluding two sixth-round ties, which were Millwall v Blackburn Rovers at the Den and Manchester United v Chelsea at Old Trafford. **11.15** **Anglo-Welsh Cup Rugby Union.** Highlights of Bath and Sale Sharpe v Saracens. **12.10** **Film:** Star Wars. **2.15** Monk. **(R) 3.00** **ITV Nightscreen:** 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show. **(R)**

**CHANNEL 4**

- 6.15** The Hobbs. **(R) 6.40** The Hobbs. **(R) 9.25** Freesports on 4. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. **(R) 8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. **(R) 8.25** Frasier. **(R) 9.00** Frasier. **(R) 9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. **(R) 12.30** The Big Bang Theory. **(R) 12.55** The Simpsons. **(R) 1.30** The Simpsons. **(R) 1.55** Undercover Boss. **(R) 2.55** Deal or No Deal. **3.55** Time Team. **4.55** Channel 4 News. **5.25** 4thoght.tv. **5.30** Crufts 2013: Best in Show. Clare Balding presents highlights of the final day. **8.00** **Secrets of the Stonehenge Skeletons.** Documentary following archaeologist Mike Parker-Pearson and his research team as they analyse bodies buried beneath the prehistoric monument in Wiltshire. **9.00** **Film: Limitless.** **(2011)** Premiere. A failed writer acquires a drug that increases his brain power, but his new abilities attract dangerous attention. Sci-fi thriller, with Bradley Cooper and Robert De Niro. **11.05** **Film: Splice.** **(2009)** Premiere. Two scientists create a new creature by mixing DNA from humans and animals, but the experiment soon gets out of control. Sci-fi horror, with Adrienne Brody and Sarah Polley. **12.55** **Gogglebox.** Weekly TV review programme. **(R) 1.40** **Film:** The Pawnbroker. **(1965) Drama,** starring Rod Steiger. **3.40** Southland. Tang is involved in a shooting. **4.20** **Deal or No Deal.** Beat-the-banker game show. **(R) 5.15** **Chris Steele's Handmade Treasures.** **(R) 5.25** Countdown. With Chris Packham. **(R)**

**CHANNEL 5**

- 6.00** Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05** Baby's Rating Cat. **(R) 6.15** Bill and the Flitter. **(R) 6.25** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. **(R) 6.30** The Mr Men Show. **(R) 6.45** Olive the Ostrich. **(R) 6.50** Abby's Flying Fairy School. **(R) 7.00** Roarbaard and Custard Too. **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. **(R) 7.20** Animal Antics. **(R) 7.30** The Way We Noddy. **(R) 7.45** Milkshake! Monkey. **(R) 7.45** City of Friends. **(R) 7.55** Little Princess. **(R) 8.10** The Adventures of Bott Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. **(R) 8.20** Mio Mac. **(R) 8.45** Angelina Ballerina. **(R) 8.40** Castle Farm. **(R) 8.45** Rubber Duck. **(R) 8.50** Holly and Little Kingdom. **(R) 8.15** Tobby's Travelling Circus. **9.30** Roary the Racing Car. **(R) 9.40** Jelly Jamm. **(R) 10.00** Power Rangers Samurai. **(R) 10.35** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. **11.00** Inside Hollywood 2013. **(R) 12.00** Once Upon a Time. **(R) 12.00** **Film: The Year Awards 2013.** **1.35** Film: Are We Done Yet? **(2007) 2.30** Film: Snow Jam. **(1996) 5.00** Film: Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed. **(2004)** Comedy adventure sequel, with Sarah Michelle Gellar. **6.40** **5 News Weekend.** **6.45** **Film: Rocky II.** **(1979)** Drama sequel, with Sylvester Stallone, Talia Shire and Carl Weathers. **9.00** **Person of Interest.** The Machine directs Finch to an abandoned six-month-old girl. **10.00** **Film: Drive Angry.** **(2011)** Premiere. Fantasy thriller, starring Nicolas Cage. **12.05** **CCTV Cities.** **(R) 1.05** SuperCasino. **4.00** HouseBusters. **(R) 4.25** Divine Designs. **(R) 4.50** County Secrets. **(R) 5.00** Hanra's Hotel. **(R) 5.15** The Milkshake Show. **(R) 5.35** Thomas & Friends. **(R) 5.50** Roary the Racing Car. **(R)**

**DIGITAL**

- BBC Three** **7.00** Let's Dance for Comic Relief. **8.30** Film: Lara Croft: Tomb Raider. **9.00** **Film: Being Human** **11.00** BlueStone. **42** **11.30** Family Guy. **BBC Four** **7.00** Arena: Ken Dodd – Happiness. **8.00** Parks and Recreation. **8.40** Minuscule: The Private Life of Insects. **9.00** Film: The Aviator. **(2004) 11.35** Totally British: **7.05** Rock. **ITV2** **3.25** Film: The Mighty Ducks. **(1992) 5.30** Film: Beethoven's 2nd. **12.00** **Minuscule: The Private Life of Insects**. **9.00** Film: The Aviator. **(2004) 11.35** Totally British: **7.05** Rock. **ITV3** **3.25** Lewis. **5.55** Dancing on Ice. **10.00** Tour de France. **6.55** Agatha Christie's Poirot. **9.00** Film: Air America. **(1990) 11.15** Wycliffe. **ITV4** **3.00** Film: Destiny. **(1994) 5.00** Film: The 'Burbs. **(1989) 7.00** The Sweeney. **8.00** Anglo-Welsh Cup. **Rugby Union** **9.00** Film: Any Which Way You Can. **(1980) 11.15** Film: Serenity. **(2005) 4** **4.05** Revenge. **5.00** The Big Bang Theory. **6.00** New Girl. **7.00** How I Met Your Mother. **10.00** Once Upon a Time. **12.00** **Film: The Year Awards 2013.** **1.35** Film: Are We Done Yet? **(2007) 2.30** Film: Snow Jam. **(1996) 5.00** Film: Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed. **(2004)** Comedy adventure sequel, with Sarah Michelle Gellar. **6.40** **5 News Weekend.** **6.45** **Film: Rocky II.** **(1979)** Drama sequel, with Sylvester Stallone, Talia Shire and Carl Weathers. **9.00** **Person of Interest.** The Machine directs Finch to an abandoned six-month-old girl. **10.00** **Film: Drive Angry.** **(2011)** Premiere. Fantasy thriller, starring Nicolas Cage. **12.05** **CCTV Cities.** **(R) 1.05** SuperCasino. **4.00** HouseBusters. **(R) 4.25** Divine Designs. **(R) 4.50** County Secrets. **(R) 5.00** Hanra's Hotel. **(R) 5.15** The Milkshake Show. **(R) 5.35** Thomas & Friends. **(R) 5.50** Roary the Racing Car. **(R)**

**FREE TV Amplifiers for Pensioners**

Douglas Henshall has popped up in a number of dramas lately, including Doors Open and The Secret of Crickley Hall. He's clearly been a very busy man because he's back again in this two-parter, playing Detective Jimmy Perez, who returns to Shetland after years away. But his homecoming isn't going to be as quiet and understanding as he'd hoped for. Archaeologist Hattie James discovers some suspicious human remains, and the owner of the croft on which they were found, is subsequently murdered.

As part of Amplifon's National Campaign for Better Hearing we are now giving enquirers with hearing difficulties a FREE TV Amplifier to help with everyday sounds around the home - great for conversation, listening to TV, radio, even birds singing! Most people with hearing difficulties could benefit from this offer.

**Hurry limited stock available.****FREEPHONE 0800 023 48 62**Quote  
LOC0603

"I first realised I was losing my hearing when I was struggling to hear the TV. I now wear hearing aids and no one complains about the volume on the TV anymore."

Dr Chris Steele MBE

Please tell me how I can claim my **FREE TV Amplifier**

Mr  Mrs  Ms  (please tick) Other \_\_\_\_\_

First name \_\_\_\_\_

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

The National Campaign for Better Hearing is a trading name of Amplifon Ltd.

Simply address your envelope to FREEPOST Amplifon.

(No further address details or stamp required).

The Hearing Aid Specialists

# Crazy!

Limited Time Offers  
at Direct Specs

Get clear vision at any distance and in any light with these two amazing offers...

## Transitions £29.99

Applies to standard single vision, £15 off any other Transitions lenses.



## Varifocals £29.99

Applies to standard varifocals, £15 off any other varifocal lenses.

Frames  
from just  
**£2.99**

On-Line or In-Store!  
[www.directspecs.co.uk](http://www.directspecs.co.uk)

Offers end 31/03/13

**Direct Specs**  
WHERE SPECS COST LESS!

## SPORT KARATE/KICKBOXING & PRIDE BOXING GYM FULL TIME CENTRE

Stay fit, look and feel better and learn Sport Karate

Call today to find out about our exciting, flexible programs that you can fit into your busy schedule. Get results, you won't be disappointed!

At our full time gym we have something to suit you;

- LITTLE KICKERS 3 - 6 YRS
- JUNIOR KICKERS 7 - 12 YRS
- ADULT KICKERS 13 YRS +
- SELF DEFENCE
- PERSONAL TRAINING
- BOXING SESSIONS
- BOXING CLASSES
- LADIES FITNESS BOOTCAMP
- FOOTBALL FITNESS BOOTCAMP

DUDLEY SEAL MEMBERS - SANDWELL COUNCIL RECOGNISED MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH KICKBOXING COUNCIL - FULLY CRB CHECKED



Follow us on Twitter  
[@cma-freestyle](https://twitter.com/cma-freestyle)

**CMA FREESTYLE**

CMA HQ: Pioneer House, Birmingham Street, Halesowen B63 3HN also at Highfields Primary School, Rowley Regis B65 0DA Tel: Jason on 0121 679 3059 / 07889627929 cma\_kickboxing@hotmail.com www.cmafestyle.co.uk



## What's On!

### Film Choices

## MONDAY

**Passenger 57, Channel 5, 11pm**

After his wife is shot dead during a robbery, a cop hands in his badge and takes up a job offer from an old friend to be a security adviser for a major transatlantic airline. On the flight taking him to his new employers in Los Angeles is an international terrorist being escorted to trial by the FBI – while the prisoner's accomplices are disguised as passengers and crew and plan to hijack the plane. Action thriller, with Wesley Snipes, Bruce Payne and Tom Sizemore. (1992)

## TUESDAY

**Racing for Time, BBC1, 12.20am**

A guard at a facility for teenage offenders is struck by the racial tensions between the female inmates, and resolves to bring them together. He organises the girls into a track team, and encourages them to break down the divisions between them as they strive to turn their lives around. Fact-based drama, directed by and starring Charles S Dutton. With Elizabeth Pena. (2008)



Fight Club, Friday, Channel 4, 11.20pm

## WEDNESDAY

**Ruthless People, BBC1, 11.40pm**

Selfish tycoon Sam Stone plans to murder his wife, only to find she has been kidnapped. He creates a media circus, hoping it will encourage the kidnappers to do his dirty work for him, but fails to realise the couple holding his wife hostage are a timid pair not cut out for a life of crime. Meanwhile, Sam's mistress thinks he really has killed his wife, and plans to blackmail him. Comedy, with Danny DeVito and Bette Midler. (1986)

## THURSDAY

**There Will Be Blood, BBC2, 11.20pm**

An oil prospector presents the public image of a caring family man while nurturing a murderous ambition to seize control of land and wealth at any cost. But his insatiable greed leads to a violent conflict with a young priest who is also intent on using the people and resources of an oil-rich town for his own ends. Paul Thomas Anderson's historical drama, starring an Oscar-winning Daniel Day-Lewis, with Paul Dano and Dillon Freasier. (2007)

## FRIDAY

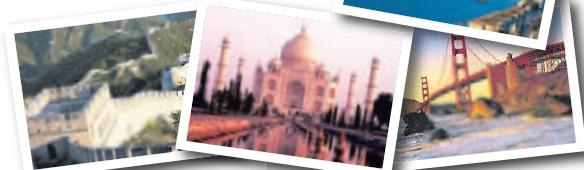
**Fight Club, Channel 4, 11.20pm**

A disillusioned office worker grows weary of his humdrum existence, but after meeting the mysterious Tyler Durden he finds fulfillment in establishing a club where similarly frustrated men come to vent their anger in bouts of bare-knuckle fighting. Satirical drama directed by David Fincher, starring Edward Norton, Brad Pitt, Helena Bonham Carter, Meat Loaf and Jared Leto. (1999)

## star extra TRAVEL

Don't miss our bumper eight-page travel special in next Thursday's Express & Star.

Packed with short breaks and holidays to the UK and Europe plus holidays further afield for the more adventurous.



### Pick of the Week

## Jimmy takes a shot in the dark on his new case

Influenced by both mainland Scotland and Scandinavia, the Shetland Islands is a location like no other. For award-winning writer Anne Cleeves, the uniqueness and sense of place made it an ideal setting for her novel Red Bones, a traditional British crime drama with a twist.

Cleeves' work has been adapted into the two-part drama Shetland being shown on consecutive nights, with Douglas Henshall assuming the role of Detective Jimmy Perez, a native Shetlander and widower who has decided to return home with his step-daughter so she can be near her biological father.

Needless to say, it's not too long before his professional skills are called upon when a young archaeologist discovers a set of human remains that could be more recent than may be considered appropriate.

Henshall's Scottish accent is, of course, entirely genuine, though he was born in urban Glasgow rather than the rural splendours of Shetland: "I always thought of Shetland as being a place that was so remote it was always in a wee

box during the weather. Sometimes I wonder if people really know where it is or what it's like, what the people are like and what goes on there."

A veteran of such TV dramas as Lipstick on Your Collar, Psychos and Primeval, Henshall is keen to dismiss notions that Perez fits into the same stereotype as so many other sleuths juggling their work with domestic obligations: "He's not one of those haunted types with lots of problems, he's actually a straightforward man who would just like a quiet life."

Adaptor David Kana is full of praise for the drama's leading man: "Douglas makes a wonderful Perez, and gives the performance of his career."

Kane faced the unenviable task of tailoring the book's world to fit, transforming it in a way that pleases all concerned, but it's a craft he has honed over the years. "The biggest consideration when adapting a novel for TV is to get the essence of the story the writer wanted to get across even if you have to change certain parts of the plot." Some of the alterations can be quite radical, even to the point of supplementing the

characters, which he did here by creating DC Alison Macleish. "I created Tosh to work with Perez, in the hope the warmth of their relationship would counterbalance the darkness of the story," he adds.

Writer Cleeves admits it's a little unnerving seeing her written work played out before her eyes:

"Occasionally the dialogue is taken almost exactly from the book and that is a bit spooky, as if my characters have come to life. Usually though, although the adaptation captures the spirit of the original, it's done in a different form. I can watch it and enjoy it as any other viewer would."

The hope is that a warm reception to Shetland will lead to a further commission. After all, Cleeves has written a quartet of tales set on the islands.

And anyone thinking the Shetland region is low on population and therefore has limited potential for serious crime has clearly learned nothing from the likes of Bergerac and Midsomer Murders. There are some strange folk living in wild and lonely places...



Douglas Henshall stars in Shetland, Sunday, BBC1, 9pm

### Best of the Rest

#### MONDAY

**A History of Syria with Dan Snow**  
**BBC2, 9pm**

This one-off documentary sees the broadcaster travel to the Middle East on a journey to explore the fascinating and tumultuous history that lies behind the civil war now raging in Syria. He explains how the country has a tumultuous past, and the impact that has on today's conflict – as what started as peaceful protests against President Bashar al-Assad's totalitarian regime have turned increasingly into a struggle along sectarian lines involving global and regional powers. He visits Roman temples, the centre of the world's greatest Islamic empire, crusader castles and today's battlegrounds in a bid to piece together the complex history of a strategically important region at the heart of the Middle East.

#### TUESDAY

**Embarassing Bodies**  
**Channel 4, 9pm**

There's a lot to be said for the docs at the heart of this programme. Pixie, Christian and Dawn are bigger people than us – after all, we can briefly turn our heads away from the telly if we don't like the look of something – they have to persevere. This week, they're popping up their portable clinic at the Bristol Balloon Fiesta. Meanwhile, Dr Dawn meets a new mum with a painful post-pregnancy problem.

#### TUESDAY

**Live UEFA Champions League**  
**ITV, 7.30pm**

There have been suggestions recently that Barcelona are not the team they used to be. Their

two-legged Copa Del Rey defeat at the hands of arch-rivals Real Madrid a fortnight ago was preceded by a 2-0 away defeat at the hands of Italian giants AC Milan in the first half of their UEFA Champions League last-16 tie. So here Lionel Messi, Andres Iniesta, Xavi and co lost their mojo since former manager Pep Guardiola departed last year? Don't count on it. Milan should certainly beware of this wounded animal when they meet again because Barca will be going all out for goals at the Nou Camp.

#### Whale Adventure with Nigel Marven

**Channel 5, 8pm**

As the song says, some guys have all the luck. Take Nigel Marven, for instance. He has none of the drudgery of a nine-to-five office job. Instead, he's out and about, taking trips to far-flung places in search of amazing animal stories. His latest sees him journeying along the Pacific coast of North America from Mexico to Alaska. He's on the trail of a grey whale mother and her newborn calf as they abandon their summer feeding grounds before heading for the icy seas of the Arctic. Nigel's epic journey begins in Baja's San Ignacio lagoon, where the calf is born and learns some much-needed swimming skills.

#### WEDNESDAY

**EastEnders**  
**BBC1, 8pm**

Poor Bianca – if she's guilty of anything, it's being too trusting in her son, Liam. Following her

shocking discovery of Tamwar's money belt in his room last night, her world has come crashing down around her – yet still she refuses to believe that the lad could have had anything to do with Tamwar's mugging. Her faith could be her undoing, however, when the police come calling asking to speak with Liam about whereabouts at the time of the assault. Bianca's not the only wounded mum in Walford, as Abi discovers when she sneaks home in the middle of the night to find Tanya has been waiting up for her. A blazing row soon erupts, as the teen's activities come to light.

#### THURSDAY

**The Mimic**  
**Channel 4, 10pm**

You have to admire Terry Mynott: he's managed to find a platform that showcases his passion for both impersonations and acting – in this new sitcom. Mynott stars as Martin

Hurdle, a maintenance man who's got an uncanny ability to mimic voices. There's not a right lot to be said about Martin's life – he's been stuck in the same dead end job for over seven years and not much remarkable ever happens to him. Until now, as it emerges that he could be the father of 18-year-old Steven. Jacob Anderson, Jo Hartley co-stars.

Davies Blinds, Monday, BBC2, 9pm

#### FRIDAY

**Born to Be Different**  
**Channel 4, 9pm**

Ask any little person about the troubles that come hand in hand with growing up and they will reel off all manner of woes such as the fact that they didn't get the monster truck they wanted for their birthday, or that so-and-so at school keeps telling the teacher on them. But for the six youngsters in this film, their issues run much deeper. This award-winning documentary series has followed a group of children each born with a disability, and has offered intricate insights into what it's like to grow up with a disability as they face important transitions in their lives; this time, they're moving from primary to secondary school. Stories include that of Hamish, who was born with achondroplasia (commonly known as 'dwarfism').

#### FRIDAY

**Comic Relief – Funny for Money**  
**BBC1, 7pm**

Now in its 25th year, the biennial Red Nose Day is back, and the likes of Lenny Henry, Dermot O'Leary and Claudia Winkleman are on hand to raise cash to help thousands in Africa and the UK. Rowan Atkinson hopes to tickle a few ribs as the new Archbishop of Canterbury, and Jessie J will have her head shaved in the studio. Global superstars One Direction belt out their Comic Relief single; Miranda Hart appears in a light-hearted take on Call the Midwife, while Miss Piggy also makes an appearance... and that's just in the first hour. So turn on, laugh loud, dig deep and save lives.

## 3 for 2 on selected blinds

10% discount with this advert

- All Types of Blinds
- Made to Measure Curtains
- Roman Blinds
- Conservatory Specialists
- Plantation Shutters
- Patio Awnings, Electric Blinds

**Davies Blinds**



■ Extensive range of blind & shutter designs and materials  
■ Prompt and efficient service



Call 0121 624 2053  
www.daviesblinds.co.uk

Quality & Professionalism Assured

### Comedy open mic

Every Thursday 8pm  
+ Special Pro Show  
4acts £5 Sat 9th March

Text for seat reservations/info  
FREE Venue/Pub Hire call for details  
Birthdays, Gigs, Weddings  
Hollybush Cradley Heath B64 5EA  
07949594484

### For The Best Bookings In

the Ticket

Call one of our helpful advisors  
on  
01902 319898

14 Hagley Road, Halesowen (town centre)

**DOMESTICS**  
of Halesowen

Why buy secondhand or  
pay large repair costs  
when you can buy new  
at realistic prices

SALES • SPARES • REPAIRS



Fridge Freezers  
From £149



Washing Machines  
From £119



Dishwashers  
From £199  
(For Illustration Purposes Only)

- Larders From £89
- Freezers From £99
- Large Selection of Vacuums From £39
- Cookers From £139
- Dryers From £99
- Spinners From £99

Open Monday - Thursday 8 am - 4.30 pm. Friday - Saturday 9 am - 4 pm

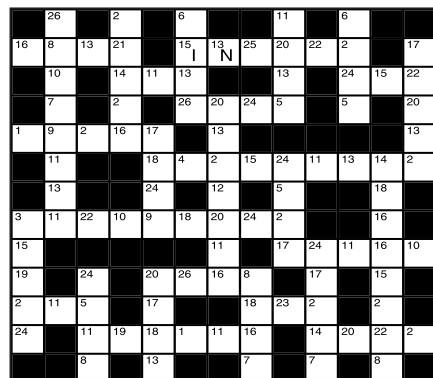
We also repair • Washers • Cookers • Refrigeration  
All Items Carry A 12 Month Full Guarantee  
Plus More Electrical Goods In Stock

**What's On!****Brain Gym**

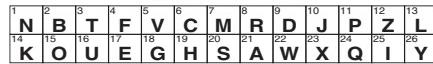
No.211

**Codeword**

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

**ALL YOUR PUZZLE NEEDS IN ONE HANDY APP!**

App Store

Seven great games in one!  
**CRYPTIC CROSSWORD**  
**QUICK CROSSWORD**  
**CODEWORD**   **SUDOKU**  
**WORD PUZZLER**  
**WORD SEARCH**  
**NUMBER CRUNCH**

SEARCH: DAILY EXPRESS PUZZLES On the iPhone, iPod Touch &amp; iPad

**SEVEN GREAT GAMES IN ONE!**

SEARCH: DAILY EXPRESS PUZZLES

**ALL YOUR PUZZLE NEEDS****IN ONE HANDY APP!****Double Crossword**

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

**Cryptic Clues:****Across**

- 1 & 13 Ac. When the secretary finishes the record of the meeting? (2,3,4,6)
8. Unfinished top copy (3)
9. Backing that gives a sign of approval (11)
11. Checks the school books again for observations (7)
12. Make a proportionate distribution from a national lottery (5)
13. See 1 across
15. Went into a clinch and barred the entrance (6)
17. Medical officer goes to the right vehicle (5)
18. Broadcast routes for flying concerns (7)
20. She won't play safe! (11)
22. Endless cycle of duty - that's complete nonsense (3)
23. Test racer converted for public transport (6-3)

**Quick Clues:****Across**

1. Journal (9)
8. Possess (3)
9. Meaning (11)
11. Agitation (7)
12. Mistake (5)
13. Harmony (6)
15. Firm (6)
17. Heavenly body (5)
18. Caller (7)
20. Change direction (5,6)
22. Transgression (3)
23. Dock worker (9)

**Down**

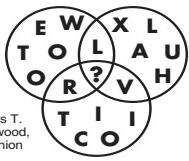
2. Net return reveals the amount (3)
3. Dreaded object beheaded - that must be wrong (5)
4. Declares the East is showing reluctance (6)
5. It protects one of the low joints (3-4)
6. The creature to treat ankles badly! (11)
7. Current changes showing little rise and fall (4-5)
10. Show what disconcerted groups do (11)
11. Isn't oblivious about the people in the society (9)
14. The man who succeeds does (7)
16. One who won't allow the standard to be kept up? (6)
19. This way sounds decidedly radical (5)
21. South Pennsylvania where people go to convalesce (3)

**Down**

2. Tree (3)
3. Value highly (5)
4. Inserts (6)
5. Apparel (7)
6. Writer for a publication (11)
7. Underclothes (9)
10. Go separate ways (4,7)
11. Right to vote (9)
14. Revolves (7)
16. Unwilling (6)
19. Inclination (5)
21. Prefix to Knight's name (3)

**ALL YOUR PUZZLE NEEDS****IN ONE HANDY APP!****Circlegram**

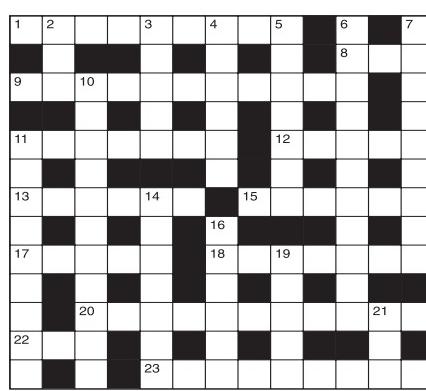
Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



LAST WEEK'S  
SOLUTION:  
The letter  
represented  
by the  
question mark is T.  
Gaultier, Westwood,  
Vuitton, all Fashion  
Designers.

**ALL YOUR PUZZLE  
NEEDS IN ONE  
HANDY APP!**

Available on iPhone  
App Store



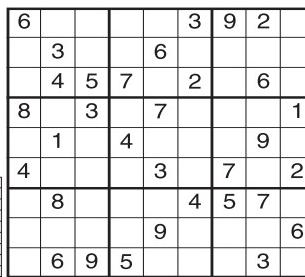
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:  
**CRYPTIC** - Across: 7 Stills; 8 Groove; 10 Pasture; 11 Forge; 12 Idol; 13 Birth; 17 Cheat; 18 Evil; 22 Arie; 23 Entrant; 24 Misuse; 25 Encore. Down: 1 Aseptic; 2 Mission; 3 Floor; 4 Profits; 5 Board; 6 Never; 9 Generates; 14 The less; 15 Aviator; 16 Flatten; 19 Palms; 20 First; 21 Atone. **QUICK** - Across: 7 Happen; 8 Polite; 10 Traduce; 11 Sight; 12 Lees; 13 Split; 17 Heart; 18 Know; 22 Lower; 23 Tension; 24 Strive; 25 Funnel. Down: 1 Whittle; 2 Apparel; 3 Begun; 4 Worship; 5 Dingy; 6 Jetty; 9 Desperate; 14 Reprove; 15 Ancient; 16 Twinkle; 19 Bless; 20 Swarm; 21 Annul.

**Sudoku**

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S  
SOLUTIONS >

2	8	3	1	5	7	1	9	6
9	1	4	2	3	6	8	7	5
5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4
3	7	4	9	6	5	2	1	8
7	5	2	3	1	6	4	9	8
8	9	1	6	4	5	3	2	7
4	3	8	7	5	6	9	1	2
6	1	2	9	7	3	4	5	8
5	4	7	6	8	1	9	3	11

**CLASSIFIED ADS  
TOOLS OF THE TRADE**

"The my classified section of the Express & Star has always proven to be a valuable source of customers for our business since we began. We have been advertising with the Express & Star for over 80 years and due to the response that we receive from our contract advertisements, we continually renew at the end of each year.

I would have no hesitation in recommending Classified Contract advertising with the Express & Star to anyone who is looking to promote their business."

Mr Marsh, E Marsh Upholsterers

**classified**

There's nothing like it for buying and selling.

**DOULTON DOORS**

Garage Doors &amp; Wrought Iron

Visit Us At: Doulton Trading Estate, Doulton Road, Rowley Regis B65 8JG

**PROMOTIONAL OFFER****CANOPY FRAME DOORS**COMPLETE WITH FOUR POINT  
LOCKING SYSTEM**FITTED FROM JUST £550**

Subject to site survey.

**NEW SHOWROOM NOW OPEN**Our extensive range of all garage doors  
covers all popular brands

We have everything from canopy to side hung styles

All types of ornate gates made to measure

**UPVC Windows & Doors now available**

Tel: 01384 413331, 01902 628018, 01543 499012

Freephone: 0800 0375179 Mobile: 07721 783291

www.doultondoors.co.uk

01902 317878

Express &amp; Star | The Chronicle | www.expressandstar.com

**CARAVANS /  
MOTORHOMES**

A BEAUTIFUL PARK nr Ludlow  
super caravans from £10,000.  
Why go further? 01584 823432

*This Could Be Yours*  
A WELL CARED FOR  
STATIC CARAVAN

On a quiet site in Mid Wales,  
very good condition, 35x12ft,  
2 bedrooms, sleeps 6.  
Rent paid for 2010.

DG, heaters, fridge and many  
extras. Large patio, fantastic  
views, within easy reach of

**ABANDON NOT!**

ESTABLISHED OVER 30 YEARS  
Your three piece suite, settee,  
odd chair etc, re-upholstered  
or repaired as new.

Fully guaranteed

Prompt personal

E MARKET

Showroom - E

Princess  
W-ton 01902

New furniture

Factory - 01902

www.e-market.co.uk

Promote your  
business from only  
**£26**  
per week



# Home of Property

Your top property guide for Dudley, Halesowen, Sedgley, Kidderminster and Stourbridge

## Well-presented property is on the market for £159,950



The property is nicely-presented throughout, including this airy lounge

**DESCRIBED** by agents as beautifully appointed and superbly presented, this three-bedroom semi-detached home in Sedgley is on the market priced at £159,950.

The house in Northway benefits from uPVC double glazing and gas central heating, with accommodation briefly comprising of reception porch, reception hall, lounge, sitting room/dining room, fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, three bedrooms, bathroom and garage.

On the ground floor the lounge, 13ft by 10ft 11in, has an attractive fireplace with open fire while the sitting room/dining room measuring 17ft 5in by 10ft 11in also has a fireplace with inset living flame pebble effect gas fire and French door to the rear garden.

The fitted kitchen, 10ft by 7ft 4in, has a range of wall and base units, round edge work surfaces, one-and-a-half bowl sink with mixer tap, integrated appliances including oven, hob, extractor fan and fridge and door to the garage.

On the first floor are three bedrooms and a bathroom with white suite of P-shaped bath, shower cubicle, WC and pedestal wash hand basin.

Outside to the front is a block paved driveway to the garage, while the rear garden is mainly laid to lawn with plants and shrubbery.

Call Roden Boydell on 01902 881188.



A block paved drive leads to the garage and entrance to the semi-detached

Cottons,  
The Property Specialists  
Est 1924

### Forthcoming Auction

Tuesday 26th March 2013  
to be held at  
The Aston Villa Football Club



Considering Selling  
by Auction?

Call for your  
**FREE** No Obligation  
Appraisal

Considered Buying  
by Auction?

Call for your **FREE**  
Catalogue

Auctioneers of  
Residential and Commercial  
Property, Land and Development opportunities



Tel: 0121 247 2233  
or email [auctions@cottons.co.uk](mailto:auctions@cottons.co.uk)  
[www.cottons.co.uk](http://www.cottons.co.uk)



#### ADDRESS

Cavendish House  
359-361 Hagley Road  
Edgbaston  
B17 8QJ

#### TELEPHONE

0121 247 2233

#### Auction:

0121 247 2299

#### Lettings:

0121 247 4747

#### Sales:

0121 247 4747

#### WEBSITE

[www.cottons.co.uk](http://www.cottons.co.uk)

#### EMAIL

[auctions@cottons.co.uk](mailto:auctions@cottons.co.uk)

[property@cottons.co.uk](mailto:property@cottons.co.uk)

Lettings **[hickshadley.com](http://hickshadley.com)** 0121 585 6688

OPEN SUNDAYS!

FRIENDLY SERVICE YOU CAN TRUST!



**CRADLEY HEATH, NEWLAND GARDENS**

Spacious well situated link-detached bungalow in cul-de-sac position. Large lounge, fitted kitchen opening into superbly proportioned full width conservatory overlooking private rear garden. 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, garage & driveway, gas central heating/double glazed. Available immediately. Unfurnished or furnished to suit. EPC = D £675 PCM



**HALESOWEN, NEWTON COURT**

A recently converted three bedroom top floor penthouse apartment finished to an extremely high standard and centrally located with commuter links to Halesowen and Birmingham. Featuring 2 double bedrooms, both with fitted wardrobes, 2 bathrooms, one single bedroom, secondary glazing throughout. Allocated parking. Viewings recommended. EPC = C £650 PCM



**HALESOWEN, SANDERSON PLACE**

Luxury living in Hayle Green. This superb luxury 1st floor apartment offers spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, a further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. Available Mid April 2013. EPC = B £650 PCM



**DUDLEY, STOURBRIDGE ROAD**

Totally refurbished to a good standard. A terraced four bedroom property close to Dudley town centre featuring a lovely entrance hall with minton flooring, charming lounge and separate dining room with feature fireplaces, new large kitchen with oven/hob, downstairs wc, family bathroom with shower and a wonderful rear garden. Viewing recommended to appreciate this property. Available immediately. EPC = F £625 PCM



**MERRY HILL, MADISON AVENUE**

Flexible accommodation. A spacious unfurnished modern townhouse, within walking distance of Merry Hill shopping centre, features kitchen, dining room, 3 bedrooms, master en-suite shower room, allocated parking space. EPC = C £595 PCM



**OLDbury, MEHDI ROAD**

Situated in a quiet cul-de-sac. This modern unfurnished three storey townhouse comprises 3 bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite, large lounge, open plan kitchen, gas central heating, double glazing, downstairs wc, house bathroom with shower, allocated parking space, small rear garden. EPC = C £595 PCM



**TIPTON, PEARTREE AVENUE**

Cul-de-sac location. This deceptively large 3 bedroom terrace house is undergoing a re-decoration and re-carpeting. It features a spacious lounge, large modern fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, nice sized garden, driveway parking and in a quiet cul-de-sac location. EPC = C £550 PCM



**HALESOWEN, HAGLEY STREET**

Fantastic refurbishment over 2 floors. This fully refurbished modern duplex apartment above an electrical shop in the very centre of Halesowen, featuring a large open plan living area with modern fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower. Rent to include £40 fixed electric charge. EPC = C £550 PCM



**CRADLEY HEATH, MEADOW WALK**

Quiet location and modern living. A fully redecorated semi detached house within a popular residential area featuring gas central heating, spacious living room, modern fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, 3 bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite shower room, rear gardens, driveway parking. EPC = D £550 PCM



**CRADLEY HEATH, LUANNE CLOSE**

Situated in a popular residential area. This top floor apartment which overlooks the canal and has its own balcony comprises 2 bedrooms, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower, access to balcony from the master bedroom, gas central heating, double glazing, allocated parking. Well worth an inspection. EPC = B £525 PCM



**HALESOWEN, TENTERFIELDS**

An exceptional opportunity to rent a double room in a shared house, with no bills to pay at all, cleaning done for you, towels and tea/coffee supplied for each room. Also the use of free WiFi, use of the lounge, kitchen, office room. All rooms have their own en-suites facilities. Well worth a viewing, and ideal for a single person. EPC = D £500 PCM



**QUARRY BANK, EVER STREET**

Complete refurbishment. Set in a quiet residential area, within minutes of Merry Hill, local shops, buses to Merry Hill and Cradley Heath. This mid terraced house features 2 double bedrooms, 1 reception room, large kitchen, house bathroom with shower, nice sized rear garden, on road parking. EPC = D £500 PCM



**CRADLEY HEATH, COPPIE ROAD**

A two bedroom semi-detached house recently fully refurbished comprising front reception room, spacious rear lounge, fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, front and rear gardens, on road parking. EPC = C £495 PCM



**STOURBRIDGE, PROSPECT GARDENS**

Desirable Oldswinford location. Close to Stourbridge Town Centre this newly redecorated, unfurnished mid terrace house comprises 2 bedrooms, fitted dining kitchen, pleasant lounge, gas central heating, double glazing, bathroom with shower, small rear garden, parking space to front. EPC = D £495 PCM



**CRADLEY HEATH, UNITT DRIVE**

Quiet and peaceful location. Located in a quiet and popular residential area, ideal for walking to Cradley Heath and local train station. This apartment on the top floor features 1 double bedroom and 1 single bedroom, large lounge and feature fireplace, house bathroom with shower, modern kitchen with washer/dryer. Available 26/03/13. EPC = C £475 PCM



**ROWLEY REGIS, POWKE LANE**

An unfurnished first flat, close to shops and local train station featuring electric storage heating, fitted kitchen, living room, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower, ample parking. EPC = E £475 PCM



**DUDLEY, SOUTHGATE WAY**

A stunning and spacious well presented unfurnished third floor apartment featuring 2 double bedrooms, electric storage heating, double glazing, open plan living room with fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, allocated parking space. Viewing highly recommended. Available immediately. EPC = B £450 PCM



**OLDbury, CAUSEWAY GREEN ROAD**

This large, split level flat above shops, within walking distance to bus links and close to J2 of the M5 briefly comprises gas central heating, spacious living room, modern kitchen with washer/dryer. Available EPC = D £400 PCM



**NETHERTON, BAPTIST END ROAD**

An unfurnished, 1st floor flat briefly comprises living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower, electric storage heating, double glazing, parking space to rear, communal garden. EPC = D £395 PCM



**ROWLEY REGIS, WINCHESTER CLOSE**

A very well presented, unfurnished first floor apartment, close to the M5. It comprises 2 bedrooms, fitted kitchen, lounge, double glazing, bathroom with shower, parking space and parking area for visitors, communal gardens. EPC rating = D £395 PCM



**DUDLEY, BLACKACRE ROAD**

A luxury contemporary living, serviced studios 1, 4 and 5 all with shared bathroom facilities. Will include council tax, broadband, servicing, heating and hot water, sky tv. £395 PCM



WEBSITE:  
[www.hickshadley.com](http://www.hickshadley.com)



11 - 13 Hagley Road,  
Halesowen, B63 4PU



Halesowen Office 0121 6964053  
Dudley Office 01384 849067

# DIXONS

Estate Agents

Doing More...

## Himley Road, Gornal Wood



NEW

Offers Over £170,000

Detached three bedroom property briefly comprising downstairs WC, lounge/diner, conservatory, kitchen, rear garden and driveway.

EPC D

## PUBLIC NOTICE



EPC C

£130,000

4 William Barrows Way, Tipton, West Midlands, DY4 9EA.  
We are acting for the mortgagors and have received an offer of £130,000 on the above property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place.

## Ambleside Close, Bradley



NEW

Offers Over £85,000

Terraced two bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, bathroom, front and rear gardens, driveway and allocated parking.

EPC Awaited

## Hill Road, Tividale



NEW

Offers Over £90,000

End terraced two bedroom property briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, bathroom, garden, garage and parking.

EPC Awaited

## Uplands Road, Dudley



EPC D

Offers Over £110,000

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility, family bathroom, rear garden,

EPC D

## Queens Avenue, Tividale



NEW

Offers Over £100,000

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, conservatory, family bathroom, rear garden and off road parking.

EPC D

## King Charles Road, Halesowen



NEW

£240,000  
An extended four bedroom semi detached house with accommodation comprising kitchen, two reception rooms and an en-suite. Halesowen

EPC E

## Fairfield Road, Halesowen



NEW

£205,000  
An extended traditional end terraced house with accommodation comprising lounge, three bedrooms, rear garden and garage. Halesowen

EPC D

## Barrs Road, Cradley Heath



NEW

£150,000  
A traditional bay fronted semi detached house on a popular road briefly comprising lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms and family bathroom. Halesowen

EPC E

## Albert Road, Halesowen



NEW

£145,000  
A three bedroom semi detached house benefitting conservatory and off road parking. The property also has a side garage. Halesowen

EPC D

## Throne Road, Rowley Regis



NEW

£125,000  
Traditional property with accommodation comprising lounge, kitchen, further kitchen/utility area, three bedrooms and rear garden. Halesowen

EPC F

## Wiltshire Drive, Halesowen



NEW

OIRO £110,000  
Modern semi detached property situated in a cul-de-sac. The property comprises kitchen, three bedrooms, front and rear garden. Halesowen

## St. James Avenue, Rowley Regis



NEW

£90,000  
Modern semi detached property with accommodation comprising lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, front and rear gardens. Halesowen

EPC E

## Cockshed Lane, Halesowen



NEW

£80,000  
Split level property arranged over two floors. Briefly comprises lounge, kitchen/breakfast room, three bedrooms and communal gardens. Halesowen

# Motoring

Compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

## Hot hatch with high performance, low price tag and is big on style

By Iain Dooley

**IMPRESSIVE** performance numbers and an attractive price are two important attributes of Seat's latest Ibiza hot hatch.

The telltale sign is the Spanish car maker's use of its trademark Cupra branding, something fans of Seat's GTI-baiting cars recognise as heralding the arrival of the firm's flagship hot supermini.

Value for money is one thing but looks can make or break a car.

Seat has cleverly chosen to give the Ibiza a relatively low-key Cupra makeover, with the regular car's already distinctive sharp lines and squat stance doing most of the work.

Plus the Cupra's low ride height, bespoke bumpers, black mirror housings, central tailpipe and LED running lights give you a classy-looking hatch that's neither brash nor a wallflower.

Seat might be keen to promote its Spanish roots but the upside of being part of the mighty Volkswagen Group is the ability to make full use of its extensive parts inven-

tory. Every so often you'll find a few gems in the parts bin, and helping the Ibiza Cupra to achieve its segment-busting performance figures is the Volkswagen Group's hi-tech 180 horsepower, 1.4-litre turbo and supercharged petrol engine.

The engine's trick is to combine the measured low-down response of the supercharger with the turbo's more immediate response at the upper end of the performance scale.

Owners of Skoda's second-generation Fabia vRS hot hatch will be familiar with this experience given that the car shares the same engine with the Ibiza.

### Reinforcing

As such, the Ibiza's 184lb/ft torque figure is accessible from a lowly 2,000rpm. And it's a contributing factor to the car's brisk 6.9 second 0-62mph sprint time.

Reinforcing the benefits of cross-company parts sharing, the Ibiza also boasts the same seven-speed DSG gearbox as the Fabia.

The upshot is a transmission adept at responding swiftly to driver inputs. Left alone, it'll quickly and smoothly shift up to a high ratio in a bid to maximise fuel economy and refinement.

However, when you want to press on, downshifts are quick and taking manual control via the steering wheel paddles

allows you to better match your speed to a gear of your choosing. Considerable effort has been made by Seat's engineers to tune the Ibiza Cupra for a variety of road conditions, and it's clear that the car's noticeably pliant ride is a welcome step forward over the old model.

That said, pitch and roll has been kept in check, allowing you to attack corners with considerable enthusiasm, with the result that your confidence remains high and you never feel tired or bruised after a session behind the wheel. Of course, the Ibiza's sports front seats can also take some of the strain.

An important factor in the Ibiza's behaviour is its steering, which delivers a good balance of weight, accuracy and assistance. Coupled with an array of trick traction and stability systems – including a clever electronic differential control – you can push the car hard, safe in the knowledge that it's working with and not against you.

Seat knows that the ownership experience is about more than just the driving, which is why the Ibiza Cupra comes with a generous level of standard kit.

Granted, you'd expect the car to possess good brakes, and the standard stoppers do the job nicely.

The optional larger diameter AP-branded

items should improve matters if you're partial to track days and routinely enjoy driving the car enthusiastically on the road.

But it's the non-performance bits that should also impress and, crucially, help sweeten the ownership experience when you're grinding your way through town on a Monday morning.

Bi-xenon headlights plus LED daytime running lights, climate control and rain-sensing wipers are joined by a bespoke multimedia system offering navigation, a Bluetooth phone connection plus audio streaming, voice control and a comprehensive trip computer.

### Handsome

It's clear, then, that the Ibiza Cupra is easily more than just the sum of its Volkswagen Group parts.

The car's handsome exterior gives little away as to its real-world performance potential.

Once behind the wheel, however, it's compact ride, responsive DSG gearbox and flexible petrol motor combine to deliver a rounded experience that belies the car's 180-on-paper horsepower rating.

Fun, engaging and refined in equal measure, Seat's generosity with a long list of standard kit is the icing on the cake.



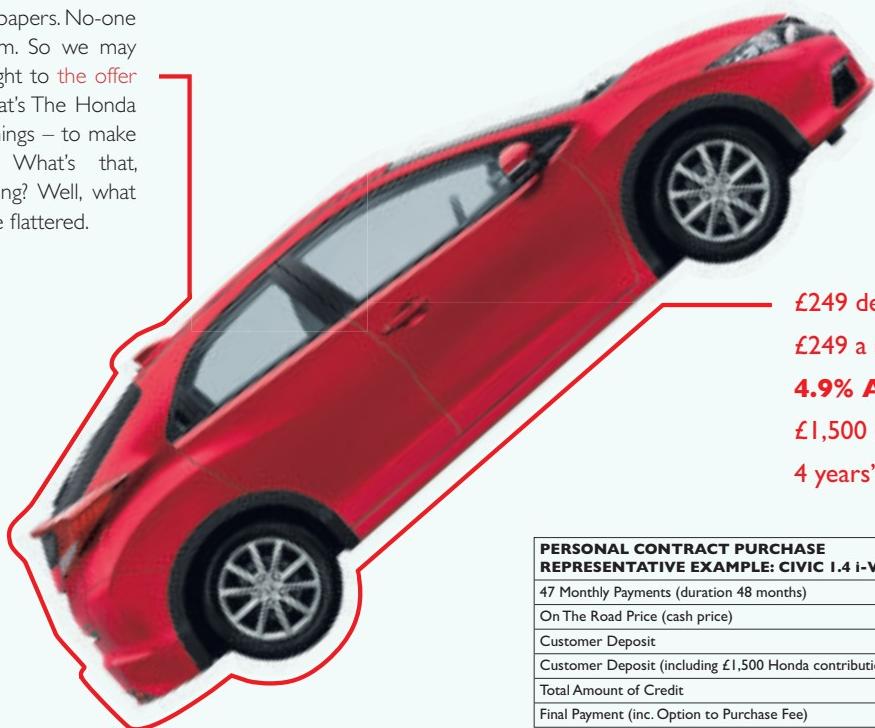
The Ibiza Cupra delivers sporting performance with a 0-62 time of 6.9 seconds

## Bumper to bumper

<b>Model:</b>	Seat Ibiza Cupra, from £18,570 on the road
<b>Engine:</b>	1.4-litre petrol unit developing 180bhp
<b>Transmission:</b>	Seven-speed DSG automatic transmission as standard, driving the front wheels
<b>Performance:</b>	Maximum speed 142mph, 0-62mph 6.9 seconds
<b>Economy:</b>	47.9mpg
<b>CO2 rating:</b>	139g/km

## Your essential guide to the world of motoring

Adverts in newspapers. No-one really reads them. So we may as well get straight to the offer on the Civic. That's The Honda Way of doing things – to make things simpler. What's that, you're still reading? Well, what can we say, we're flattered.



£249 deposit

£249 a month

**4.9% APR Representative**

£1,500 deposit contribution

4 years' servicing for £399

**HONDA**

The Power of Dreams

### PERSONAL CONTRACT PURCHASE REPRESENTATIVE EXAMPLE: CIVIC 1.4 i-VTEC SE MANUAL

47 Monthly Payments (duration 48 months)	£249.00	Option to Purchase Fee	£65.00
On The Road Price (cash price)	£16,955.00	Credit Acceptance Fee	£125.00
Customer Deposit	£249.00	Total Amount Payable	£18,947.40
Customer Deposit (including £1,500 Honda contribution)	£1,749.00	Interest Rate per Annum	4.29%
Total Amount of Credit	£15,206.00	Representative APR	4.9%
Final Payment (inc. Option to Purchase Fee)	£5,495.40		



**BRINDLEY HONDA**

Cannock, Halesowen, West Bromwich and Wolverhampton

Call 08430 223040 or visit [www.brindleyhonda.co.uk](http://www.brindleyhonda.co.uk) Calls charged at local rate.

Fuel consumption for the Civic range in mpg (l/100km): Urban Cycle 32.5 - 55.4 (8.7 - 5.1), Extra Urban 54.3 - 76.3 (5.2 - 3.7), Combined 44.1 - 67.3 (6.4 - 4.2). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 150 - 110g/km.

Model shown: 13YM Civic 1.4 i-VTEC SE Manual in Milano Red at £16,955. Terms and Conditions: New retail Civic registrations (excluding Civic Ti and Civic 1.6-i-DTEC models) from 2 January 2013 to 31 March 2013. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. Deposit contribution: £1,500 Honda deposit contribution on Civic i-VTEC and 2.2-i-DTEC models. Honda Aspirations (PCP): Example shown based on annual mileage of 10,000. Excess mileage charge: 5p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage of 10,000 has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc, 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY. Servicing: Four years' servicing or 50,000 miles, whichever comes first, for £399 including VAT and includes a maximum of four manufacturer's scheduled services.

# Motor-Market

Best Value, Choice and Customer Service



Scan to view all stock!

**OVER 100 CARS IN STOCK**

	06 Reg Fiat Punto <b>£3995 or £24 pw</b>		57 Reg Mini One <b>£6495 or £38 pw</b>		12 Reg Chevrolet Spark <b>£7995 or £46 pw</b>
	57 Reg Corsa CDTi <b>£5995 or £36 pw</b>		08 Reg Clio DCi <b>£5995 or £36 pw</b>		06 Reg Mondeo TDCi <b>£3495 or £21 pw</b>
	08 Reg 207 1.4 HDI <b>£5795 or £35 pw</b>		55 Reg 1 Series BMW <b>£5995 or £36 pw</b>		58 Reg 308 1.6 HDI <b>£5495 or £33 pw</b>
	03 Reg Renault Megane <b>£1995 or £15 pw</b>		57 Reg 1.9 DCi Megane Cab <b>£5995 or £36 pw</b>		07 Reg Fiesta 1.4 TDCi <b>£5495 or £33 pw</b>
	59 Reg Renault Clio <b>£5295 or £32 pw</b>		06 Reg Peugeot 206 <b>£3495 or £21 pw</b>		07 Reg Picasso C4 HDI <b>£5995 or £37 pw</b>
	57 Reg Fiesta 1.25 Zetec <b>£5195 or £32 pw</b>		06 Reg 307 HDI <b>£3495 or £21 pw</b>		57 Reg Antara CDTi <b>£9495 or £55 pw</b>

Finance Example - Cash Price £3995, Less Cash or Part Exchange Deposit £500 Amount Of Credit £3495, Total Amount Payable £5453.60 48 Monthly Payments of £103.20 or 208 weekly payments of £23.82.



**www.motor-market.net**  
27 Newtown Lane Cradley Heath B64 5EB  
01384 411119

TYPICAL 19.9% APR



## UNSTOPPABLE OFFERS. BELIEVE IT.



**0%** APR  
REPRESENTATIVE\*

FIND GREAT DEALS ON  
CHEVROLET MODELS.



## Cradley Heath Motor Company Ltd.

[www.cradleyheathmotorco.co.uk](http://www.cradleyheathmotorco.co.uk)

NOW OPEN ON SUNDAY, 10AM-4PM

APPLY FOR  
CREDIT  
ONLINE

OUR SELECTION	OUR PRICE
RENAULT MEGANE 1.4 OASIS 06 Reg, 5-dr. Air Con, Alloys, Panoramic Roof, 36k, FSH	<b>SOLD</b> £3995
FORD MONDEO 2.0 LX Auto, 06 Reg, 5-door, Black, Air Con, 41k, SH ...	<b>SOLD</b> £3995
VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8 DESIGN 07 Reg, 5-dr, Silver, Air Con, Alloys, Sat Nav, 53k, FSH	<b>SOLD</b> £3995
RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCI MAXIM 06 Reg 5-dr Black, Air Con, Alloys, 70k, FSH	<b>SOLD</b> £3995
FIAT PANDA 1.1 ACTIVE 09 Reg, 5-dr, Red, 20k, FSH	<b>SOLD</b> £3995
RENAULT MEGANE 1.4 TECH RUN 08 Reg, 3-dr, Red, Air Con, Alloys, 41k, FSH	<b>SOLD</b> £4295
VW POLO 1.2e 56 Reg, Black Metallic, 36k, FSH	<b>SOLD</b> £4695
MERCEDES A150 AVANTGARDE SE 55 Reg, 5-dr, Silver, Air Con, Alloys, 52k, FSH	<b>SOLD</b> £60 Reg, Blue, Efficiency, Classic, SE, Black, Air Con, 30k, FSH £6495
TOYOTA PRIUS 1.5 T3 55 Reg 5-dr, Black, Air Con, Alloys, 47k, FSH	<b>SOLD</b> £6495
AUDI A3 1.6 Special Edition 06 Reg, 5-dr, Black, Air Con, Alloys, 52k, FSH	<b>SOLD</b> £6995
VW GOLF 1.9 TDI MATCH 07 Reg, 5-dr, Silver, Air Con, Alloys, 62k, FSH	<b>SOLD</b> £7795
AUDI A3 1.9 TDI Special Edition 07 Reg, 3-dr, Grey, Air Con, Alloys, 54k, FSH	<b>SOLD</b> £7995
JAGUAR S-TYPE 2.7 TDSE Auto, 06 Reg, Red, Metallic, Black Leather, Sat Nav, 54k, FSH	<b>SOLD</b> £7995
MERCEDES A160 1.6 60 Reg, Blue, Efficiency, Classic, SE, Black, Air Con, 30k, FSH	<b>SOLD</b> £7995
TOYOTA PRIUS 1.8 SRI NAV, 61 Reg, Grey, Air Con, Alloys, Sat Nav, 56k, FSH	<b>SOLD</b> £8495
VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 1.8 SRI NAV, 61 Reg, Grey, Air Con, Alloys, Sat Nav, 56k, FSH	<b>SOLD</b> £8495
VOLVO V50 1.6 DSE 09 Reg 5-dr, Silver, Air Con, Alloys, 56k, FSH	<b>SOLD</b> £9995
<b>SPORTS</b>	
PEUGEOT 206 1.6 QUICKSILVER CABRIOLET 04 Reg, Silver, Air Con, Alloys, 65k, Service History	<b>SOLD</b> £2495
MG 1.8 TF CABRIOLET 04 Reg, Black, Hardtop, Alloys, 33k, FSH	<b>SOLD</b> £2995
RENAULT MEGANE 2.0 DCI PRIVILEGE Cabriolet, 57 Reg, Gold, Air Con, Alloys, Leather, 77k, FSH	<b>SOLD</b> £3495
VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 DESIGN SPORT HATCH 58 Reg, 3-dr, Black, Air Con, Alloys, 34k, FSH	<b>SOLD</b> £3495
RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 DYNAMIQUE S CABRIOLET 09 (58) Reg, Grey, Air Con, Alloys, 31k, FSH	<b>SOLD</b> £3495
SUBARU IMPREZA 2.5 WRX TYPE UK SL 05 Reg, 4-dr, Grey, Leather Seats, Air Con, Alloys, 69k, FSH	<b>SOLD</b> £3495
RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 COUPE IMUSA 10 Reg, Grey, 3-dr, Air Con, Alloys, 24k, FSH	<b>SOLD</b> £3495
SEAT LEON 2.0 TDI FR 07 Reg, 5-dr, Silver, Air Con, Alloys, 62k, FSH	<b>SOLD</b> £3495
<b>MPVs</b>	
SEAT ALTEA 1.9 TDI Reference 56 Reg, 5-dr, Silver, Air Con, 47k, FSH	<b>SOLD</b> £4995
CITROEN C4 GRAND PICASSO 1.8 SX 07 Reg, Black, 7 Seats, Air Con, 54k, FSH	<b>SOLD</b> £5295
CHRYSLER VOYAGER 2.8 TD LX AUTO 56 Reg, 5-dr, Air Con, Alloys, 51k, FSH	<b>SOLD</b> £5495
KIA SEDONA 2.9 2.9 TD L 06 Reg, 5-dr, Red, 6 Seats, Air Con, DVD, only 18k, FSH	<b>SOLD</b> £5495
SKODA YETI 1.2 TSI S 2011 (60) Reg, 5-dr, Red, Air Con, only 7k, FSH	<b>SOLD</b> £11,795
<b>YOUR LOCAL FINANCE SPECIALISTS</b>	
<b>MORE CARS ARRIVING DAILY</b>	
• FREE WARRANTY • FULL MOT ON ALL VEHICLES • P/X WELCOME • NO DEPOSIT DEALS •	
Typical Finance Example: Cost of £3495, Deposit £98, Admin Fee £198, Total Amount Payable £5625.04, 48 Monthly Payments of £117.23 or 208 Weekly Payments of £23. (Typical) 16.2% APR	

**HAVING PROBLEMS GETTING CREDIT? GIVE US A CALL!!**

Tel: 01384 561455 Fax: 01384 561525  
56 CRADLEY RD, CRADLEY HEATH,  
WEST MIDS, B64 7BB  
Email: sales@cradleyheathmotorco.co.uk

### SPARK 1.0+

THE 5-DOOR CITY CAR WITH EXPRESSIVE DESIGN

**£132** PER MONTH  
NIL DEPOSIT  
60 MONTHS £7,975

- Electric Windows
- 119g/km - only £30 per year road tax
- 5-door practicality
- Central locking
- Fuel efficient: up to 55.4mpg
- CD-Radio with Aux input
- MP3 & USB connectivity



Picture for illustration purposes only

### AVEO 1.2 LS

THE 5-DOOR CITY CAR THAT'S FUN TO DRIVE

**£171** PER MONTH  
NIL DEPOSIT  
60 MONTHS £10,295

- 5\* NCAP
- £30 a year road tax
- Air conditioning
- Start/Stop technology
- Electric Windows
- Cruise control



Picture for illustration purposes only

### HALESOWEN MOTOR HOUSE

Dudley Road West Midlands B63 3NH

0121 462 2914

www.halesowenchevrolet.co.uk



CHEVROLET

Spark 1.0+ and Aveo 1.2 LS shown feature metallic paint at an extra cost of £425. Offer available until March 31st 2013. \*0% APR Representative. Minimum 20% deposit. Finance subject to status. Terms and Conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantee/Indemnity may be required. Finance by Santander Consumer (UK) plc, RHT15R. Offers available at participating Dealers only and not available in conjunction with any other offer. Offers may not apply to all Dealer stock. Warranty expires at 5 years or 100,000 miles, whichever occurs first. This offer includes Chevrolet's standard Customer Care commitment of a 2 year unlimited mileage manufacturer's warranty, and third year manufacturer's warranty with a 60,000 mile limitation. Years 4 and 5 are an insurance-backed warranty up to a maximum of 100,000 miles. The warranty excludes wear and tear and serviceable items and the vehicle must be serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's servicing schedule. 5 year warranty is available on retail registrations and at participating Dealers only. Prices correct at time of print.

Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (g/km). Chevrolet Spark Range: Urban 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2), Combined 55.4 (5.1) CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 119g/km. Chevrolet Aveo Range: Urban 34.0 (8.3) - 67.2 (4.2), Extra Urban 55.3 (5.1) - 85.6 (3.3), Combined 44.8 (6.3) - 78.4 (3.6), CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 147 - 95g/km.



# Making Friends



**37YR** old singleton who loves animals, genuine, loving and desperate to meet someone nice WLTM loving male for ltr.



To view these members and others go to: <http://dating.expressandstar.com>

Sally & Mike

Are this weeks featured web ads

## PICK AN ADVERT AND MAKE A DATE TODAY!

Guys Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people. Send : CHAT207 To : 65125. Or call 0906 635 0510.

(T&C's below)

## SINGLE LADIES

**REMEMBER:** Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

LINDA bored with her relationship seeks discreet man for daytime meetings. Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box No: 400495

GAIL 52, blonde hair, 5ft 2ins, likes nights out, seeks N/S male, 50-60 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402041

JEANETTE 35, blonde blue eyed attractive active nurse who really cares about people. WLTM someone genuine and honest to fall in love with. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402655 8

LISA 30's tall slim beauty looking for discreet dining partner to romance, pamper and appreciate me in return for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402458 8

JACKIE busty blonde, husband away寻求 some frungs! Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box No: 400453

ATTRACTIVE curly Jamaican female 37 who loves to party, cook/bake and have fun, looking for no strings adult companion only with white male, any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393428 8

MAXINE lonely heart, fun good looking single mum with GSOH seeks gentle considerate male to try and get to know better, dads welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393223 8

ALISON slim pretty lonely divorcee looking for caring supportive man who enjoys life and is looking to share it with me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402255 8

FIRST timer! Annette, passionate, loves cooking, life in general, rock music, WLTM mature male for friendship, togetherness, etc, hopefully ltr. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401467

LIZ 42, black, divorced, seeking male, 44-54 for kind, sincere, honest, open relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400949

JANINE petite cute female who loves meals in/out, romantic strolls. WLTM interesting appreciative, independent man for ltr. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400803

JULIE 30's female looking for some much needed ltr with similar laidback male. Likes nights in/out, socialising, romance etc, call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400487

62YR old female, widowed, small, slim, attractive, kind, outgoing, likes meals out, dancing, holidays, nights in, seeking professional gent. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394106 8

KATHY 38yrs, knows what she wants out of life, wltm similar genuine male to wine/dine travel, share ambitions and hopefully fall in love with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400793

MAUREEN seeks male, 32-45, for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 323543 8

TEXT AN ADVERTISER!

If an advert has a # next to it then you can reply by text: Send **WOL** followed by the box no. of the advertiser plus your message and send it to **6688\***

CALL CHARGES:- DATING 18+ and have the bill payer's permission. 09065 calls cost £1.53 per min. plus network charges. Mobiles will be considerably higher, calls are recorded and may appear on your bill. 033 calls are charged at standard network rate. TEXT\*: 88833 texts £1.50 per msg. Mobiles must be MMS/Map compatible in order to use these services. If not contact your Network Provider. Text alerts are charged at £1.50 per msg (3 x 5p billed msgs). To unsubscribe to text alerts, text DATING STOP to 63333. To cancel free match alerts, text CHAT207 To 65125. (T&C's below).

\*SMS Txt Chat 'Fun on your mobile' 66888. Cost £1.50/msg sent. SMS Txt Chat 'TEXT FOR FUN' is a virtual chat service meaning that you will not be able to meet the people listed. This service is for fun & entertainment only. We reserve the right to contact individuals with other services and events operated by us. We may pass your details onto this newspaper for marketing or PhonePayPlus for regulatory purposes. W/C 04 03 13

## SEE PHOTOS OF MEMBERS

If an ad has a # next to it, then the advertiser has sent in their photo. Simply text: **WOLVDATE** (spaceman@box number & send to 66883\*

CALL our support team 0844 800 1388 weekdays 10-4, support@mediauk.co.uk

LADY young 60, straight, outgoing, friendly, smart, seeks similar female friends for days/nights out, Sutton Coldfield and surrounding areas, genuine replies, car owners preferred.

Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397931

FRIENDS

## CUSTOMER SUPPORT

Call our support team 0844 800 1388 weekdays 10-4, support@mediauk.co.uk

LADY young 60, straight, outgoing, friendly, smart, seeks similar female friends for days/nights out, Sutton Coldfield and surrounding areas, genuine replies, car owners preferred.

Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397931

## FRIENDS

LADY young 60, straight, outgoing, friendly, smart, seeks similar female friends for days/nights out, Sutton Coldfield and surrounding areas, genuine replies, car owners preferred.

Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397931

SINCERE, single Dad, lonely



## Women TEXT FOR FUN!

\*see T&C's below. No meetings implied or guaranteed. Texts cost £1.50 per message. Help Desk: 0844 445 7707

GUYS TEXT FOR FUN. SEND INDEP followed by the box number of the person you wish to chat to and send to 66888 (T&C's below)

SASSY Blonde 22yrs loves fun chat. Text INDEP 204856 to 66888

ADVENTUROUS lady, ask me about myself. I'm here for you. Text INDEP 205191 to 66888

SALLY Ann hoping to chat with mature men. Text INDEP 205246 to 66888

NIKITA, Russian beauty, has naughty side to her and loves to chat. Text INDEP 205093 to 66888

MARILYN, feminine petite blonde, own home and just loves to text. Text INDEP 204910 to 66888

ASIAN lady, very kind and respectful. Loves to chat to English men. Text me. Text INDEP 204550 to 66888

LADY 22yrs is interested in texting men for chats. Text INDEP 204562 to 66888

SALLY and Sophie 19 yr old twins love to share everything. Call us for a chat. Text INDEP 204614 to 66888

MATURE lady, very young looking 60, curly figure, loves to chat with younger men. Text INDEP 204784 to 66888

DIVORCED and happy lady, doesn't get out much so loves to chat with those who do. Text INDEP 204530 to 66888

SUSIE, attractive nurse, works a nightshift so free during the day. Text me. Text INDEP 205021 to 66888

BORED and lonely, home alone all day give me something to brighten up the lonely hours. Text INDEP 205026 to 66888

ASIAN female, wants chats with white man. Interested to learn English ways. Text INDEP 204765 to 66888

SINGLE mum, kids at school all day, would love some fun chats. Text INDEP 205285 to 66888

JASMINE, exotic beauty, text me what you like and I will text back. Text INDEP 204668 to 66888

BIG is best, cuddly lady seeks skinny men. Call, whatever you look like, how will I know! Text INDEP 205069 to 66888

SUE, sporty and fun , why not chat with me. Text INDEP 205455 to 66888

LADIES TEXT FOR FUN. SEND INDEP followed by the box number of the person you wish to chat to and send to 66888 (T&C's below)

SINCERE, single Dad, lonely seeks lady to chat to,相亲, swap notes about life in general. Text INDEP 204947 to 66888

SOLVENT business gent, would love to have a phone friend to chat with. ACA. Text INDEP 204937 to 66888

# Local Tradesmen



## AERIALS

**Luke Kings Aerials**  
HALESOWEN 0121 445 1382  
FREEPHONE 0800 211 8053  
FREE QUOTES & FREE  
HELP & ADVICE  
SET UP & TUNING &  
REPAIRS FROM £25  
NEW AERIALS FROM £49  
FREESAT FROM £89  
OPEN 7 DAYS

**J. J. Digital Aerials**  
Installation of Digital, Freeview & Satellite  
**£20 OFF**  
(with new installs)  
LOCAL EXPERT  
WHO YOU  
CAN TRUST  
EXTRA TV POINTS £45  
FREE QUOTES  
Friendly, reliable service  
0121 5806785 / 07919 597626

## BLINDS & CURTAINS

### Blinds4Less

Top quality blinds at budget prices

"We will beat any like for like quote"



Local company, full range of blinds

TO VIEW OUR BLINDS VISIT  
[www.blinds4lessdirect.com](http://www.blinds4lessdirect.com)

WOLVERHAMPTON

01902 500204 or 07989 588728

SANDWELL/HALESOWEN 01384 886162



### GLOBAL BLINDS

VERTICAL, ROLLER AND VENETIAN

6 Verticals FOR ONLY £199



- Widest choice of fabrics
- Fully guaranteed
- All blinds made to measure
- Fast local service
- Call now for a free no obligation quote
- Free fitting

Superb Quality - Genuine Offers  
FOR FRIENDLY ADVICE & SERVICE

TELEPHONE 9am - 9pm 7 days a week  
CALL NOW 0845 505 1122



### BLT Blinds

From £30 A Window  
Hand Made to your requirements.  
Exceptional Quality as Standard  
Wide Choice of top quality fabrics available  
FREE ESTIMATES

Call Rob 07771 554455

## LOCKSMITHS

**LOCK PROBLEMS**  
UPVC, Yale, Chubb, etc? Lost keys?  
Broken door locks? Window and door security locks changed, fitted, upgraded.  
Tony Lane 01384 354344  
07540 380140

## BUILDERS

**D H Household Maintenance**  
Decking to DIY  
Plastering to Plumbing  
All areas covered  
0121 422 8594  
07985 548466

## CARPET FITTING

**Allans Carpets**  
Fitting Service  
New and old carpets fitted  
from £20 per room or can supply  
carpets of excellent rates  
01384 442559  
07989 745396

## BUILDERS

**S. K. Smith Building Services**  
THE COMPLETE BUILDING SERVICE  
*Any job - any size!*  
Extensions, Brickwork, Patios,  
Fencing, Roofing, Plastering,  
Kitchens and Bathrooms  
For a Free No Obligation Quotation call  
0121 585 7206  
Visit us at  
[sksmithbuildingservices.co.uk](http://sksmithbuildingservices.co.uk)

## DOUBLE GLAZING

**Misted Sealed Units?**  
Contact us for a free quote!

Tel 01384 566100

Email: [quotations@blackcountryglazing.com](mailto:quotations@blackcountryglazing.com)

BLACK COUNTRY GLAZING Est 1987

## COMPUTERS

### NEED ADVICE ON COMPUTING?

- All PC Problems Resolved • Software & Hardware Installed
- Virus & Spyware Removed • PC Health Checks
- Home Network Implemented
- Internet Connections Installed

DON'T BE FOOLED INTO THINKING YOU NEED A NEW PC

Call: 0121 422 7646 or 07970 846 552

**JUDR@P PC SUPPORT**

email: [support@judrap.com](mailto:support@judrap.com)

## CARPENTRY

### SM CARPENTRY & BUILDING

- Extensions/Canopy's
- Loft conversions
- Bathroom and Kitchen Refurbs
- Fitted Bedrooms/Home Offices
- All Types Of Plasterings
- General Carpentry

CALL: 0121 601 7727 • 07879 681591

### DAVID ADAMS CARPENTRY

Doors, loft conversions, laminate  
flooring, UPVC windows & doors

**FREE QUOTATIONS**

30 years experience

0121 602 1450  
07885 417812

## CARPETS

**Able & Bromley**  
Carpets and Bed  
Retail Discount Warehouse

100% Wool Carpet from £4.99 sq yd

Heavy Saxony Carpet from £8.99 sq yd

Beds from £99

100's of Bargains

Can't get out we will bring samples to you

All areas covered

Tel: 01902 880541

## INTERIORS

## DOMESTIC INSTALLATIONS

**Bow's Universal Domestic Installs**  
COOKER INSTALLS  
ELECSA  
Gas, Electric and LPG  
Built-in Ovens and Hob  
Range Cookers and Hob  
Washers, Dishwashers, Televisions, Wallmounts  
also installed  
[www.bowsuniversaldomesticinstalls.com](http://www.bowsuniversaldomesticinstalls.com)



01562 741179  
07973 534527  
07932 723061  
Gas Safe  
Register 506334

## DECORATING

**HARRISONS**  
Painting & Decorating - Property Maintenance  
Domestic & Commercial Work Undertaken  
Interior & Exterior Painting & Decorating  
(All General / Maintenance Work Considered)

Call: 07792865975

Email [Nick@harrisonsdecoratingservices.co.uk](mailto:Nick@harrisonsdecoratingservices.co.uk)

[www.harrisonsdecoratingservices.co.uk](http://www.harrisonsdecoratingservices.co.uk)

(We also offer cleaning services for UPVC Windows/Frames / Gutters & Patios)

No job too small... or too big

Call today for a free quote

**Ashley Services**  
Painting & Decorating  
Tiling & General Maintenance  
**FREE QUOTES**  
Full liability insurance  
Ring Ross on: 0121 550 7817  
07980 286695

### T W Decorating Services

**Painting and Decorating, and General Maintenance**  
Professional and Reliable  
**OAP FRIENDLY**  
For a FREE Quote Call Tim On:  
0121 559 4762  
07890 779785

### HALESOWEN DECORATORS

**Painters & Decorators**  
**OAP DISCOUNT AVAILABLE**  
10% OFF with this advert  
Residential and Commercial work undertaken  
CALL 07860 206713 / 0121 550 5784

### INTERIORS

**Elegant Stairs**  
Quality Stairparts supplied & fitted by mature craftsman  
For this and other carpentry work phone Bill for a Free Estimate/Quote on  
0121 533 9339 or 07505 807686

## ELECTRICIANS

**ELECTRICIAN**  
Fully guaranteed work  
Honest reliable service

### ANT ELECTRIC

Ring Tony or Julie on  
0121 422 3549  
07974 428 603  
'No Job Too Small'

### A M ELECTRICAL SERVICES

Domestic, Commercial, Industrial  
Full and Part Rewires / Fuse Boards Upgrades / Showers / Extra Sockets  
P.A.T Testing / Safety Reports  
CCTV / Burglar Alarms

Free Quotes And Advice Call  
0121 369 2370  
07785 781652

### LANDSCAPERS

### CARDINAL LANDSCAPES

West Midlands  
Specialists in Patios, Driveways, Paths, Fencing, Turfing, Decking and Landscaping  
Call now for a FREE QUOTE  
01902 562600 or 07539 887144

## ELECTRICIANS

**Starkey Electrical Ltd**  
Manor House  
Manor Lane, Halesowen  
Domestic, Commercial & Industrial Electricians

For all your electrical needs in the home, garden, driveway or office/retail premises

- Emergency call outs - 7 days a week
- Experienced electricians NICEIC regulated
- Competitive Prices/FREE quotations

[www.starkeyelectrical.co.uk](http://www.starkeyelectrical.co.uk)

0121 602 8088 (24 Hour Call Outs)  
07967 650 567 OFFICE: 0844 561 7244



### DJB Electrical Contractors Ltd

We are NIC EIC approved electrical company and also TRUST MARK and PART P registered.

All are electricians are CRB checked.

24 hour 7 days a week call outs

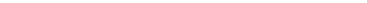
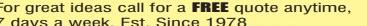
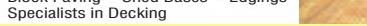
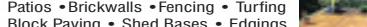
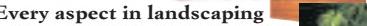
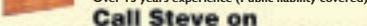
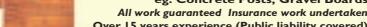
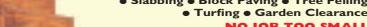
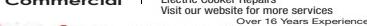
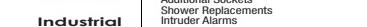
We cover Domestic, Commercial, Industrial

- Landlord reports / testing and certification
- Rewires • Fuse board up grades
- Energy efficient led lighting for your home and business
- Internal / external lighting • Shower replacements
- Additional sockets • Intruder / cctv systems
- Check out our great reviews on checkatrade.com

T: 0121 647 7087 T: 01384 881017

M: 0790 090 3000

E: Darren@djbelectricalcontractors.co.uk





# Local Tradesmen

Need a job doing?  
Call one of our local tradesmen appearing weekly on these pages.

## TILING

## I.C.A. TILING SERVICES

Walls, floors, bathrooms, kitchens and conservatories.

Ceramic, porcelain, mosaics, slate, marble and all natural stone.

Quality workmanship at competitive prices.

Fully insured. Portfolio available.

For a free quote call Ian on 01384 412796 or 07890 894631

## CERAMIC FLOOR &amp; WALL TILING

BATHROOMS, KITCHENS AND CONSERVATORIES  
For a free quote call Tony Baker 0121 422 4116 07961 604632

## ROOFING

## ALL WEATHER ROOFING

Safing, Tiling, Roots, Flat Roots, Chimneys, Gutters, Ridges, Flashings, uPVC Fascia Cladding  
FREE ESTIMATES • FAST RELIABLE SERVICE

Over 30 years experience

0121 420 1582

NO CALL OUT CHARGE

Mobile Number: 07947 839451

## RUBBISH REMOVAL

**ROB'S RUBBISH**  
A CHEAP RUBBISH REMOVAL 7 DAYS  
Small Jobs  
**NO PROBLEM**  
We load,  
No Skips  
Free Estimates  
Garden, Household, Shed, Garage, Fridges, White Goods, House Clearances  
0121 500 6033

## SHEDS

## All Size Sheds at Competitive Prices

Playhouses, Summer houses etc  
Fitted, delivered and ErectedThe SHED SHOP  
07920 885774  
01384 482542

## PETS CORNER

# THE BEST OF STOURBRIDGE

4 PETS WHO KNOW A GOOD THING!

MICRO CHIPPING SERVICE NOW AVAILABLE

FOR ALL YOUR PET GROOMING REQUIREMENTS AT AFFORDABLE PRICES!

CAT GROOMING SERVICE NOW AVAILABLE.  
CALL GARY: 01384 891008 / 07557 648100  
217 HIGH STREET, LYE, DY9 8JX  
EMAIL: POSHKUTZ.GF@GOOGLEMAIL.COM

## SKIP HIRE

# ALL SIZES ALL AREAS BEST PRICES

All Size Skips available for immediate delivery  
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

SCRAP CARS removed for FREE  
07920 885774  
01384 482542

MT SKIPS  
U fill 'em We mt 'em

SKIP HIRE  
IN HALESOWEN  
Minis - Midis  
The best in the West  
0121 561 5493  
07956 664002Local Tradesmen  
Need a job doing?  
Call one of our local tradesmen appearing weekly on these pages

## classified

## ONLINE FREE ADVERTS

IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY  
For items up to £250visit [www.expressandstar.com/bookanad](http://www.expressandstar.com/bookanad)

Simply press the free ad icon

Sorry, no pets, guns or livestock. Private advertisers only.

By telephone, post or in person at your local branch.

Items up to £250

£3.00 per entry  
Sorry, no pets, guns or livestock.  
Private advertisers only.SELL IT FAST  
SELL IT LOCALONLY £19.50  
For 6 nights

(Conditions apply)

## Place your ad

By phone 01902 317878  
8.30am - 6pm Monday - Friday  
Closed Saturday

## Online

[www.expressandstar.com/bookanad](http://www.expressandstar.com/bookanad)

## In person

at your local Express & Star Office  
Cancel/amend, call before 4.00pm Monday - Friday for the next day's advertisement or also before 4pm Friday for Monday's advertisement

## gas fitting

## GAS SERVICES

- Boilers
- Cookers
- Fires
- Gas Checks
- Landlord Certificates
- Gas Leaks Traced
- Fitted, Serviced and Repaired  
Same Day Service
- DISCOUNTS FOR OAPS

Call: 01902 366855 / 07761 973975

## guttering

**A★ GUTTER CLEAN**  
Drives, Patios & Conservatories  
**FREE Call Out & Quotes:**  
**07969 117656**

## plans prepared

ADAM DESIGN, Building Plans  
Drawn and submitted to council.  
Tel: 01902 620200 / 07841 654037.  
Email: [adamdesign@sky.com](mailto:adamdesign@sky.com)

## roofing

**MG ROOFING** Flat roofs, tiling, gutters, fascias, soffits, down pipes, gutters.  
Call 01902 238889 / 07580 444666

**Premier Roofing** 25% off all new Roofs, Repairs and Fascias.  
01384 335600 or 07875 387444

**Semi Retired Roofers** All kinds of roof repairs, fascias and gutters, 38 years experience.  
Please call Keith: 07546 158165

There's nothing like it for buying and selling

01902 317878

[www.expressandstar.com/bookanad](http://www.expressandstar.com/bookanad)

## Lost &amp; Found

LOST Male neutered cat, 7 months old, black and white, chipped, Dickinson Road, Wombourne, Friday Mar 1 07739 224774

## personal

## ATTRACTIVE FEMALE SEEKS

Handsome Male 42-47 for relationship leading to something permanent.

I go out with Friends etc but still looking for that special someone.

Must have good lifestyle, position, etc, must like countryside, travel, days and nights out.

Penn-Stourbridge area, car owner, photo, will return.

Box Number P18393,  
Express and Star,  
Queen Street,  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

## LOOK

CROSSING SIX DECADES IS THE BEAUTIFUL BRENDAN NE SMOUT.

Met you in 1953 when I was at Preston Montford Hall.

Montford Bridge.  
Love to hear from you.  
C.I.D. SYD.Box Number P18381,  
Express and Star,  
Queen Street,  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

## LOOK

HAVEN HOLIDAY, The Orchards, 2010 Sea. September 16 - 20 100% Genuine reason for sale.  
01902 726267.

## HI, I'M JOHN

I would like to meet a nice, bubbly lady, aged between 45 - 50, for nice days out together.

Box Number P18382,  
Express and Star,  
Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

## HOMEY QUIET RESPECTABLE MAN

80's, Widower with own home and car. Likes walks and the countryside also trips out. WLM similar lady for companionship.

Wolverhampton area preferred.

Box Number P18389,  
Express and Star,  
Queen Street,  
Wolverhampton,  
WV1 1ES.

## MALE 33

I am looking for a fun, lovable, caring and honest lady, between the ages of 28-36, who likes going to clubs, pubs and bars and enjoys days and nights in/out.

Genuine replies only, photo appreciated (returned).

Box Number P18380,  
Express and Star,  
Queen Street,  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

PERSONAL CARE available for shopping and cleaning, GRB Cleaning, N.W. 10th floor. From £7 per hour. 01902 831379.

## education &amp; tuition

## CLOISTERS

HALESOWEN TUTORS Est 1992 West Midlands Premier Agency

Home Individual Tutoring LOCAL &amp; DISTANCE TUTORS

Protection of Children Act

Regulated and Police Checked

Primary 11+, SATS, Secondary, GCSE, A, Deg, etc.

0121 2124986

01902 671683

[www.cloistertutoring.co.uk](http://www.cloistertutoring.co.uk)

NEW TUTORS WELCOME

## elderly &amp; disabled

CORDOBA MEDICAL shopriders

mobility scooter, puncture proof

tyres, great condition, £450 01384 236359.

## GO GO TRAVEL SCOOTER

With personal raincover, can be broken and put in car boot with red, blue and grey changeable trikes, brand new batteries.

£250

01902 846788 / 07961 187683.

## MOBILITY SCOOTER 3 wheels, good condition, £150.

MOBILITY SCOOTER, one large, one smaller, both four wheel, excellent condition, £295 01902 582299.

MOBILITY SCOOTERS from £350 can deliver, servicing available.

Can Deliver 01902 229019, Blackheath.

01384 229019 / 07631111111

WRENKIN STAIRLIFTS recommissioned lifts from 3/499. Plus New Lifts. 01952 053597 / 07891 273617

## furniture

CONSERVATORY FURNITURE, cane settee, two chairs and table, excellent, £350 mono.

01902 896588.

EXTENDING DINING TABLE 6 chairs, 2.5cm extension. Can deliver 07743 501040

## LEATHER SUITE, 3 and 2 seater suite, plus footstool, Italian real hide, pecan brown. £350 mono.

07743 501040

THREE PIECE SUITE, light / beige, reversible, nearly two years old, cost £1,600, sell. £250.

01902 734891.

★ TWO PIECE SUITE, A modern brown leather large two seater sofa with matching armchair. Excellent condition, from a non-smoker house. £500. 01922 405484.

TWO SEATER SETTEE, cream, with recliner armchair to match, very good condition. £200. Telephone 01902 753479.

## house clearances

A. ABSOLUTE cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Tel: 07852 172641

YOUR LOCAL BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION Furniture and Electrical Store. Furniture and electrical clearance service. Please call: 0844 412 5000. Help us fight heart disease.

## removals

REMOVAL VAN &amp; DRIVER FOR HIRE

Single Items to Full Removals. 01902 894196 / 07807 773035

AND M CHEAP Removals local, careful job, full / part loads. Don - 0800 587 0377 / 07749 441319.

A MAN WITH A VAN Single items, flat/house removals/clearances, tools, furniture, C.I.D. etc. 0121 422 8899 or 07880 043724

CALL DEAN! Business/Domestic, Deliveries/Relocation/full house 1 item. 07429 453209/01902 830870

CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN, Removals, clearances, items large or small. Call: 01902 741546 / 07917 673360 / 01984 486126.

## wedding bells

CORRUGATED roofing sheets

Also the effect /box profile

Hornsey Steels 01547 530419

## items for sale

SHOWER SCREEN with pattern and all fittings. £25. Shower with all fittings £30. 07743 501040.

## household appliances

TUMBLE DRYER very good condition, can deliver £75.

07950 775768.

## cheaper removals

REMOVAL VAN &amp; DRIVER FOR HIRE

Single Items to Full Removals.

01902 894196 / 07807 773035

## L.K.B Aerials

• OAP Discount • Free Quotes

• 2 Year Guarantee

Help &amp; Advice with all equipment

8 till Late 7 days a week

[www.digitalaerialfitter.co.uk](http://www.digitalaerialfitter.co.uk)

All Major Credit/Debit Cards Accepted

01384 918671-07572 838893

## LUKE KINGS AERIALS HALESOWEN

Free quotes &amp; OAP Discounts from your local Aerial Man

NEW AERIALS • REPAIRS • TUNING • SET UP TVs • FREE-SAT

£10 OFF REPAIRS &amp; TUNING

Aerials from £49 - Fringe from £89 - Complete from £89

Tuning £30 - Set Up £30 - Repairs from £39

Bed Points from £49 - TV Wall Mounting from £85

TEL: 0121 445 1382

## Clothing Alterations

Discount 10% with Voucher

# classified

**caravans /  
motorhomes**


**ABBEY AVVENTURA 325**  
05 reg. 2006 model. 4 berth, end bathroom, separate shower, full cooker, CH, L shaped seating, removable carpets, £5,595.  
07867 842091.

**ABBEY LINCOLN GT**, 93 model, 2 berth, goes up, condition for year, full awning, £1,300.00.  
07545 035752.

**ABE ACE** Rallyman 2 berth, 92, cassette toilet, motor mover, awning, £1,500.00.  
01902 411911, 07954 685192.

**BAILEY RANGER 550-6**  
2002, 6 berth, with fixed bunks at the rear. Well looked after with cream curtains and cushions. Alko hitch lock, Aqua roll and waste.  
£4,500.  
07837 993824.



**COSALT SUPER FAIRWAY**  
Luxury three bedroom caravan  
For sale in Swanage, Dorset.  
Delightful site and facilities complete with full balcony and gate.

Contact caravan park website www.ulwellcottagepark.co.uk  
02241105.

**ELDDIS TORNADO CARAVAN**, 3-4 berth, awning, fridges and cooker. Great condition. £580.00.  
07972 535410.

**ELDDIS WISP 350/2**

1991, 2 berth, good, clean condition for its age, make great starter caravan, with portaloos, oven, new ultralease tyres, 18 month old fridges, new carpet.  
£700.00.

Telephone 01902 337473.

**FLEETWOOD Colchester 470** EB new, 2004, first used 2005 fitted with power mover, 2 awnings, plus many extras, served mainly by approved dealer 1 owner, non smokers, £5,000.  
01746 767536 - 07958 293958

**ISABELLA CUVIS** awning 300, 975, little used, excellent condition, £950. 07974 628183.



**LUXURY HOLIDAY HOME**  
2009 Swift Moselle, 38ft x 12ft, 2 bed. Double glazed and central heating. Lovely open plan layout. Tall fridge freezer inc. Piped gas. On small quiet (inland) Mid Wales park. WiFi, free fish tank, children's playground, 2013 fees in. Choice of plots with private double parking. Stunning views. Pets and children welcome. Immaculate condition.  
£20,995.  
07971 734329.

**Pre Season Sale**  
Small ★★ Site  
Caravans from £5995  
inclusive 2013 Fees (£1090)  
**01686 670408**  
**07891 528061**

**STIRLING ECCLES SPORT**  
2012 Model.  
With 5 years manufacturers warranty. Excellent condition, c/w Aqua roll, waste and full size awning. Ready to go.  
£14,975.  
Telephone 07727 082319

**VW T5**  
**CAMPERVAN T28 1.9TDI**  
2004, 64,000 miles, s/w with VW Cambelt replaced. MoT Nov 2013, tax Oct 2013. Leisure drive conversion 2007. Rock-n-roll double bed, Fridge freezer. Oven. Sink with hot water pump. Double storage/extra bed. Fiamma window sun canopy plus privacy room. Fiamma 2 x bike rack. Excellent condition inside and out.  
£16,750.00.  
01694 723916.

**SUNCAMP AWNING** to fit a twin axle caravan, 105cm wide x 107cm long, blue and grey, used one season only. £295. 01902 607679.

**SWIFT CHALLENGER 570**  
2011, Roll-a-way, motor mover, end washroom, fixed bed, panoramic sunroof, ex.  
£14,500.00.  
Telephone 01299 841011.

**WILLERBY LYON 2010**, 37x12.2, double, DG, CH, 4 berth, Mid Wales coast. £21,500. 07578 122072 or 01902 788875.

**NEW WILLERBY RIO GOLD**

New, 28 x 12, 2 bed, DG, CH, galvanised chassis, connected to services, real quality caravan, all manufacturers warranties, sited at Sand Bay, coastal Somerset Village, family owned and dog friendly park by the sea. Excellent buy. Cost over £28,000 new.

Bargain £24,750.

07801 734823 or 01934 412680.

**guns & dogs**

**NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS**  
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

**what's on**
**markets**

**BIGGEST SUNDAY MARKET IN THE MIDLANDS**  
Bescot Stadium, Walsall FC  
WS1 4SA, FREE PARKING, JKT M6  
07888 975701 All hard standing  
Stall Hire Available From £21

**The Famous BILSTON SUNDAY MARKET & CAR BOOT**  
52 WEEKS A YEAR, WHATEVER THE WEATHER!  
OVER 150 SHELTERED STALLS  
£15 for 1 / £20 for 2 / £25 for 3  
NO MUD! FREE PARKING!  
VOTED THE MIDLANDS BEST!  
SELLERS TURN UP - £10 PER BOOT  
BILSTON TOWN CENTRE, WV14 0DN  
CALL DAVE 07907 332068  
www.jdpromotions.co.uk

**auctions**
**LAST CHANCE TO ATTEND THIS ONCE IN A LIFETIME AUCTION EVENT**

## OLYMPICS & LIQUIDATION STOCKS

REMAINING CONTENTS OF OLYMPIC VILLAGE - VARIOUS SPORTS VENUES - PUBLIC AND VIP AREAS - CONTENTS OF TILBURY AND STEVENAGE DISTRIBUTION WAREHOUSE

**MONDAY 11TH MARCH** BOTH AUCTIONS START AT 10.30AM SHARP  
**SATURDAY 16TH MARCH** VIEWING: SAT 9TH MARCH 10AM - 4PM  
FRI 15TH MARCH 10AM - 4PM

**ALL ITEMS MUST BE SOLD REGARDLESS OF LOSS - EVERYBODY WELCOME - FREE ADMISSION**

**WAREHOUSE**  
NEW DEXION TYPE WAREHOUSE / SHOP RACKING - PALLET TRUCKS, WAREHOUSE TROLLEYS, GLOVES, HI-VIZ JACKETS, HAT, HATS, PADLOCKS, TRAFFIC SIGNS, WATERPROOF SOCKETS, EMERGENCY LIGHTING, TRADESMANS TOOLS, 100'S OF EXTENSION LEADS, MULTI PLUG ADAPTERS, CHARGE LEADS, LARGE QUANTITY OF GENERATORS - SUPER SILENT, DIESEL AND PETROL GENERATORS, WATER PUMPS AND MUCH MUCH MORE

**OFFICE & PUBLIC AREAS**

STACKABLE CONFERENCE CHAIRS, VARIOUS OPEN BOOKCASES, 100'S OF EXECUTIVE CHAIRS & OFFICE DESKS, WIRE BOARDS, NOTICE BOARDS, LAMINATORS, LABORATORY HIGH TIER DESKS, Clocks, MODULAR RECEPTION CENTRES, INFORMATION/PLASMA TV & INFORMATION STANDS, 100'S OF PERSONAL SAFES, STAINLESS STEEL MEDICAL TROLLEYS & MEDICINE LOCKERS, EXECUTIVE DIGITAL BOARD ROOM SAFES, DEMOUNTABLE OFFICE PARTITIONING, SHARP SAFE BOXES, PROFESSIONAL FIRST AID KITS, 100'S OF DESKTOP & PEDESTAL FANS, HIGH VELOCITY FANS.

**SITE SECURITY**

3 IN 1 THERMAL WATERPROOF JACKET AND TROUSER SETS, WORK WEAR - LINEAR FLEECED COATS, DENIM JACKETS, BOOTS, VESTS, FIRST AID KITS, SITE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SIGNS, HI-VIZ JACKETS, TORCHES, MEGA PHONES, HAZARD TAPE, STRAP & WRAP MACHINES, 2 DOOR LOW MEDIUM & HIGH LEVEL, CHANGING ROOM LOCKER

**Auction to be held at:**  
BFC Furniture Outlet

Unit 2, Bull Lane, Western Way, Wednesbury, Birmingham WS10 8RR

Tel: 0121 505 5829/07554 964293/07980 979736

Email: auction@bfcgroup.co.uk

Web: www.bfcgroup.co.uk

**equestrian corner**

**CHESTNUT MARE**  
**REG APPALOOSA 15HH**. With few spots, 8 years old. Needs re-schooling or would make good companion. Had foal 3 years ago.  
£500.00.  
07816 073433.

**15.2HH CLEVELAND BAY CROSS COB**

Mare, 9 years, green but schooling well, fantastic nature, experienced home only to bring on her education. Family commitments forces sad sale.  
£1,995 including some tack.  
07523 865172.

**in your garden**

**Top Soil, Building Sand Paving/Concrete Cane Decorative Gravels Delivered Bagged or Loose**  
**01902 893226**

**pets corner**

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its Mother.  
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.  
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if possible.  
Whilst Midland News publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

**BEAUTIFUL BABY RABBITS**, ready now, £20 to secure good home. 07904 317164.

**NOTICE TO READERS**

Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

**NOTICE TO READERS**

It is an offence under the Adoption Agency Act 1982, for an individual to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

**NOTICE TO READERS**

Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

**DUDLEY PORT** Tipton, studio flat, self contained, DG, 75pw. DSS possible. 07932 703540.

**FLAT TO LET WEDNESFIELD**

Fully furnished and refurbished to a high standard. With off road parking. Would suit working Gent aged 45 plus. £80pwk.  
01902 304258.

**FULLY FURNISHED** en-suite rooms, £155, all bills included. DSS ok with guarantor: 07775 801766.

**NOTICE TO READERS**

It is an offence under the Adoption Agency Act 1982, for an individual to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

**NOTICE TO READERS**

Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

**DUDLEY PORT** Tipton, studio flat, self contained, DG, 75pw. DSS possible. 07932 703540.

**FLAT TO LET WEDNESFIELD**

Fully furnished and refurbished to a high standard. With off road parking. Would suit working Gent aged 45 plus. £80pwk.  
01902 304258.

**FULLY FURNISHED** en-suite rooms, £155, all bills included. DSS ok with guarantor: 07775 801766.

**NOTICE TO READERS**

It is an offence under the Adoption Agency Act 1982, for an individual to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

**NOTICE TO READERS**

Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

**DUDLEY PORT** Tipton, studio flat, self contained, DG, 75pw. DSS possible. 07932 703540.

**FLAT TO LET WEDNESFIELD**

Fully furnished and refurbished to a high standard. With off road parking. Would suit working Gent aged 45 plus. £80pwk.  
01902 304258.

**FULLY FURNISHED** en-suite rooms, £155, all bills included. DSS ok with guarantor: 07775 801766.

**NOTICE TO READERS**

It is an offence under the Adoption Agency Act 1982, for an individual to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

**NOTICE TO READERS**

Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

**DUDLEY PORT** Tipton, studio flat, self contained, DG, 75pw. DSS possible. 07932 703540.

**FLAT TO LET WEDNESFIELD**

Fully furnished and refurbished to a high standard. With off road parking. Would suit working Gent aged 45 plus. £80pwk.  
01902 304258.

**FULLY FURNISHED** en-suite rooms, £155, all bills included. DSS ok with guarantor: 07775 801766.

**NOTICE TO READERS**

It is an offence under the Adoption Agency Act 1982, for an individual to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

**NOTICE TO READERS**

Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

**DUDLEY PORT** Tipton, studio flat, self contained, DG, 75pw. DSS possible. 07932 703540.

**FLAT TO LET WEDNESFIELD**

Fully furnished and refurbished to a high standard. With off road parking. Would suit working Gent aged 45 plus. £80pwk.  
01902 304258.

**FULLY FURNISHED** en-suite rooms, £155, all bills included. DSS ok with guarantor: 07775 801766.

**NOTICE TO READERS**

It is an offence under the Adoption Agency Act 1982, for an individual to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

**NOTICE TO READERS**

Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

**DUDLEY PORT** Tipton, studio flat, self contained, DG, 75pw. DSS possible. 07932 703540.

**FLAT TO LET WEDNESFIELD**

Fully furnished and refurbished to a high standard. With off road parking. Would suit working Gent aged 45 plus. £80pwk.  
01902 304258.

**FULLY FURNISHED** en-suite rooms, £155, all bills included. DSS ok with guarantor: 07775 801766.

**NOTICE TO READERS**

It is an offence under the Adoption Agency Act 1982, for an individual to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

**NOTICE TO READERS**

Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

**DUDLEY PORT** Tipton, studio flat, self contained, DG, 75pw. DSS possible. 07932 703540.

**FLAT TO LET WEDNESFIELD**

Fully furnished and refurbished to a high standard. With off road parking. Would suit working Gent aged 45 plus. £80pwk.  
01902 304258.

**FULLY FURNISHED** en-suite rooms, £155, all bills included. DSS ok with guarantor: 07775 801766.

**NOTICE TO READERS**

It is an offence under the Adoption Agency Act 1982, for an individual to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

**NOTICE TO READERS**

Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

**DUDLEY PORT** Tipton, studio flat, self contained, DG, 75pw. DSS possible. 07932 703540.

**FLAT TO LET WEDNESFIELD**

Fully furnished and refurbished to a high standard. With off road parking. Would suit working Gent aged 45 plus. £80pwk.  
01902 304258.

**FULLY FURNISHED** en-suite rooms, £155, all bills included. DSS ok with guarantor: 07775 801766.

**NOTICE TO READERS**

It is an offence under the Adoption Agency Act 1982, for an individual to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

**NOTICE TO READERS**

Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

**DUDLEY PORT** Tipton, studio flat, self contained, DG, 75pw. DSS possible. 07932 703540.

**FLAT TO LET WEDNESFIELD**

Fully furnished and refurbished to a high standard. With off road parking. Would suit working Gent aged 45 plus. £80pwk.  
01902 304258.

**FULLY FURNISHED** en-suite rooms, £155, all bills included. DSS ok with guarantor: 07775 801766.

**NOTICE TO READERS**

It is an offence under the Adoption Agency Act 1982, for an individual to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

**NOTICE TO READERS**

Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

**DUDLEY PORT** Tipton, studio flat, self contained, DG, 75pw. DSS possible. 07932 703540.

**FLAT TO LET WEDNESFIELD**

Fully furnished and refurbished to a high standard. With off road parking. Would suit working Gent aged 45 plus. £80pwk.  
01902 304258.

**FULLY FURNISHED** en-suite rooms, £155, all bills included. DSS ok with guarantor: 07775 801766.

**NOTICE TO READERS**

It is an offence under the Adoption Agency Act 1982, for an individual to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

**NOTICE TO READERS**

Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

**DUDLEY PORT** Tipton, studio flat, self contained, DG, 75pw. DSS possible. 07932 703540.

**FLAT TO LET WEDNESFIELD**

Fully furnished and refurbished to a high standard. With off road parking. Would suit working Gent aged 45 plus. £80pwk.  
01902 304258.

**FULLY FURNISHED** en-suite rooms, £155, all bills included. DSS ok with guarantor: 07775 801766.

**NOTICE TO READERS**

It is an offence under the Adoption Agency Act 1982, for an individual to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

**NOTICE TO READERS**

Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

**DUDLEY PORT** Tipton, studio flat, self contained, DG, 75pw. DSS possible. 07932 703540.

**FLAT TO LET WEDNESFIELD**

Fully furnished and refurbished to a high standard. With off road parking. Would suit working Gent aged 45 plus. £80pwk.  
01902 304258.

**FULLY FURNISHED** en-suite rooms, £155, all bills included. DSS ok with guarantor: 07775 801766.

**NOTICE TO READERS**

It is an offence under the Adoption Agency Act 1982, for an individual to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.



## Hales' win sees them out of the drop zone

**Telford 2 Old Halesonians 3 OLD** HALESONIANS men's hockey seconds timed their first away league win of the season to perfection.

They beat Telford to climb out of the relegation places and put their opponents into the bottom two.

Halas dominated the early exchanges, preying on their opponents' nervousness. Hales' excellent passing was rewarded when Graham Knight slammed the ball home.

Knight and Ash Underhill went close, but Telford levelled from a short corner. After the initial short strike was deflected, Mark Rigby's loose touch fell to a Telford forward who placed the ball past Steve Charlton in the Hales goal.

Hales re-grouped at half time. Knight claimed his second goal and Tom Durnford scored from a corner to give Hales a 3-1 lead.

Charles Palmer fired wide and Chris Hardy saw an effort saved.

Hales stepped off the gas, and Telford pulled a goal back. Hales defended for their lives for the final few minutes, and were delighted to hear the final whistle.

**Result:** Old Halesonians firsts 2

Barford 7; Old Hales ladies seconds 0

Barford 2; Telford 2 Old Hales thirds 4; Old Hales fourths 2 Sutton Coldfield 1; Old Hales fifth 2 Old Silvillians 1.

**Tigers win title at Old Halesonians**

**Old Halesonians Ladies 0 Barford Tigers Ladies 2**

BARFORD LADIES travelled the short distance to local rivals Old Halesonians ladies seconds for what was destined to be a title-winning game for the Tigers girls.

Needling only a point to secure top place in Worcestershire Division Three and promotion in their first season, Tigers began well with wingers Roohi Faruque and Stacey Nash launching a series of attacks.

Tigers – yet to concede a goal all season – also withstood Old Hales pressure.

They opened the scoring when Nash won a penalty corner and Faruque lifted the ball into the top corner.

Barford struck again as a fine exchange of passes saw the ball fizzed across the D for Bianca Homer to sweep it first time into the net.



Steph Wem looks to cross as Halas push toward goal

## Revenge win after cup loss

### Halas Hawks Ladies 3 Redditch Ladies 1

A HALAS team able to field only 10 players gained a remarkable revenge for their recent cup defeat to Redditch.

Halas secured all three Birmingham County Premier Division points, despite falling behind.

It was always going to be a difficult encounter for a side weakened by injuries.

Halas were under pressure from the whistle, but were kept in the game by the woodwork and several crucial saves from Gemma Scriven. But Redditch took a deserved lead following some indecision in the Halas defence.

### Halas Hawks

Kicking down the slope in the second half, Halas came more into the game and, following a Katie Monk corner, Sam Whittaker crowned a fine display with a headed equaliser.

The next goal was crucial and it went to Halas when a long distance shot from Tracey Haycock looped into the top corner.

Further chances were made by both teams but the game was made safe when Tash Berry put Haycock through to score her second goal.

### Halas Hawks U17 Girls 0 Stourbridge U17 Girls 2

#### Stourbridge U17 Girls 0

#### Halas Hawks U17 Girls 1

Halas Hawks did surprisingly well in this double-header against Stourbridge. It was only their second outing of the year, but they passed the ball with confidence and looked dangerous.

Halas lost the first game 2-0. However, their heads did not drop and they emerged as winners in the second encounter with a well-taken goal from Kate Drew. Halas player of the match was Dulcey Williams, a constant threat down the left.

**Powell is a star in defeat for Halas**

### Halas Hawks

#### Boys League West Hagley U9 1

#### Halas Hawks U9 East 0

HALAS were edged out 1-0 after a tight first half saw the hosts get the only goal.

The second half continued in similar vein, with few chances. Halas player of the match was Tom Powell.

#### Kingsley Olympic U9 West 2

#### Halas Hawks U9 West 1

West led as Jack Blakeway scored in the top corner but the home side equalised shortly afterwards.

A wonder save from Kingsley's keeper prevented Halas from regaining the lead but in the second half, Kingsley scored after a fine passing move to win.

William Smith, in defence for the first time, was the Halas player of the match.

#### Halas Hawks U10 West 1

#### Withymoor Colts U10 West 0

An evenly-fought contest was settled by Halas' top scorer, Harvey Brookes.

Altrin Alshiqi was their player of the match for a competitive performance in the middle of the park.

#### Halas Hawks U11 East 3

#### Wordsley Wasps U11 South 3

A late Halas goal gave them a share of the points.

Wordsley led only for Halas to level immediately through Charlie Greening.

The visitors were 3-1 up at the break, but two Oliver Miller strikes squared it.

#### Hallesown Town Coits U14 2

#### Halas Hawks U14 3

Halas won against a very good Halesowen side after both sides gave their all and played good football.

Halas led through Cameron Milne until the second half when Halesowen levelled from the spot. Cain Brissett prodded home from close range for Halas, but again Halesowen equalised. Halas won as Shane Billingham scored.

Player of the match was keeper Daniel Johnson.

#### Ettingshall Juniors U15 1

#### Halas Hawks U15 7

An early Halas goal set the tone and they led 3-1 at half-time with two goals from Dominic Hipkiss and a penalty from Dillon Mullan.

Player of the match Hipkiss completed a hat-trick as goals came from Adam Higginson, Charlie Bagley and Jack Guest.

#### Netherton Colts U16 0

#### Halas Hawks U16 2

Goals from Dan Willetts and Mitchell Tomlinson took Halas into the semi-final of the league cup.

# Chelsea a Bridge too far for bland Baggies

### Chelsea 1 Albion 0

**IF ALBION** had to suffer a 40-point hangover, perhaps Stamford Bridge was as good a place as any to do it.

Now the Baggies have to blow away the cobwebs quickly and find a new focus for what remains of a fabulous season, writes Steve Madeley. For Steve Clarke, a losing return to his spiritual football home made for a frustrating weekend. But the Hawthorns boss and Albion fans can surely forgive their players a lapse just seven days after hitting their primary pre-season target with three months to spare.

Without ever fully tapping into the potency that made them European champions less than a year ago, the Blues showed enough power and drive to see off Clarke's men with relative ease, despite the scoreline suggesting a somewhat closer encounter.

#### Agitated

Yet for Albion fans, there was a lingering feeling of disappointment that their side had not pushed Chelsea just a little harder and given the critical home supporters something to really boo about.

With agitated home boss Rafael Benitez the inevitable leading man and his players and their fans cast in key supporting roles, the Baggies were always destined to be merely extras in the latest instalment of the Chelsea soap opera. But Clarke and the travelling Baggies fans might have left wondering whether their side could have done just a fraction more.

There was more than enough endeavour, especially in a closely-fought final half-hour, to ensure Clarke's men left the capital with positives to carry into important fixtures ahead. There was, however, just a nagging sense that the intensity that had crept back into their game in recent weeks was missing for long spells as the Blues were rarely required to switch into top gear.

Albion never quite got to grips with the impish movement of the Chelsea midfield, with precocious Brazilian Oscar especially lively to force impressive Baggies keeper Ben Foster into several excellent saves. Nor did they treasure the ball sufficiently to trouble the Blues backline with real quality.

That left Shane Long often cutting a lonely figure in attack and feeding off scraps, with the Irishman only receiving regular support once controversial striker Peter Odemwingie stepped off the bench in the final half-hour.

If Long had to toil for a part in the game, Foster had no such trouble as he was tested frequently in front of England boss Roy Hodgson days after ending his international sabbatical. He twice denied Oscar in the early stages, blocking a close-range shot superbly before making a routine stop from a header.

But, after opposite number Petr Cech had

kept out a Steven Reid thunderbolt, Foster blotted his copybook as the Blues went ahead. Having pulled off another good save to concede a corner, he misjudged Oscar's far-post cross from a short flag-kick; Gareth McAuley failed to stop David Luiz heading across goal and Demba Ba turned the ball home.

Chelsea continued to hold the upper hand after the interval with Eden Hazard screaming for a penalty after tangling with Jonas Olsson. But the hosts could not find the killer second goal, meaning Cech's instinctive stop to prevent a Cesar Azpilicueta own-goal was a scary moment for Benitez.

Ultimately, however, the Baggies paid the price for a tame first half and Chelsea claimed a victory that, in spite of a tense final half-hour, was considerably more comfortable than the single-goal winning margin suggested.

But, after opposite number Petr Cech had



Marc-Antoine Fortune and Frank Lampard contest the midfield at Stamford Bridge

### Yeltz star duo continue the unbeaten run

#### Rainworth 0 Halesowen Town 2

HALESOWEN TOWN put in another fine performance in Nottinghamshire. They continued the excellent run which took them into March unbeaten. So assured were they on Saturday that Halesowen goalkeeper Paul Evans didn't have a shot to save.

The Yeltz showed signs of their intent on only two minutes when man-of-the-match Joe Hull had a header cleared off the line.

They always looked dangerous in the first half with top goalscorer Ben Haseley and Luke Corbett linking up well. It was Haseley who outstripped the home defence on 22 minutes to set up Jean-Michel Gueyes to score from six yards out.

Halesowen went further ahead on 43 minutes when Corbett set up skipper Neil Barnfield, who finished to make it two.

There was still time before the break for Haseley and Gueyes to combine in a flowing move with the latter lobbing the goalkeeper but seeing the ball hit the bar.

After the break there wasn't much goal-mouth action as Halesowen easily contained the home side.

Another good display at Rainworth for both Haseley and Gueyes could bring further interest in the Yeltz's star men.

Haseley has 30 goals to his credit despite not finding the net on Saturday, while Gueyes has been the subject of interest from non-league top-flight side Tamworth.

## CLASSIFIED ADS TOOLS OF THE TRADE

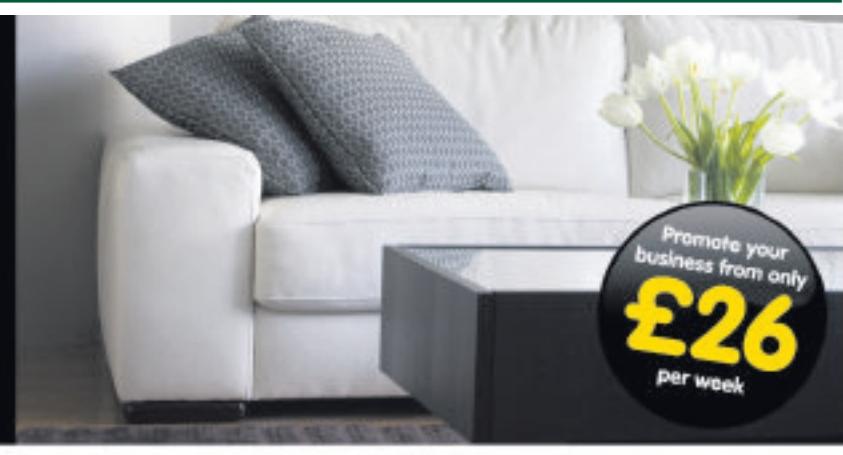
"The my classified section of the Express & Star has always proven to be a valuable source of customers for our business since we began. We have been advertising with the Express & Star for over 80 years and due to the response that we receive from our contract advertisements, we continually renew at the end of each year."

I would have no hesitation in recommending Classified Contract advertising with the Express & Star to anyone who is looking to promote their business."

Mr Marsh, E Marsh Upholsterers

**classified**

There's nothing like it for buying and selling.



Promote your business from only  
**£26**  
per week

01902 317878

Express & Star | The Chronicle | www.expressandstar.com

# SPORT

Sports Desk 01902 319461

## Clarke's fears on fitness of Brunt

ALBION are sweating on the fitness of Chris Brunt for Saturday's clash with Swansea after the captain pulled out of training again.

The winger sat out Saturday's defeat at Chelsea with an ankle ligament injury picked up in the victory over Sunderland at The Hawthorns.

And the Northern Ireland international was forced to abort an attempted return to training on Monday.

Boss Steve Clarke said: "We thought Chris would train yesterday but he trained on Monday and still felt something. We have our fingers crossed."

"He and Shane Long both twisted their ankles against Sunderland. Shane was still feeling a bit on Saturday at Chelsea but he's OK."

Clarke revealed that a number of other Baggies players are nursing minor injuries but all are expected to be fit to face the Swans.

"Claudio Yacob has a knock and hasn't trained, but should be OK," said the Hawthorns head coach. Steven Reid has a knock and hasn't trained this week but should also be OK.

"Jonas didn't train on Monday, but trained on Tuesday and Youssouf Mulumbu had migraine but he's fine now."

"Hopefully, everyone will be fine."

Meanwhile, Clarke has repeated his reluctance to allow Jerome Thomas out on loan despite continued interest from Blackburn manager Michael Appleton.

Clarke said: "The size of the squad dictates everything for us."

"I would be very, very surprised if any senior players left the squad now."

## Tough test for Tigers

BARFORD TIGERS hockey club have a big day on Sunday.

They begin their defence of the England Hockey Mixed Plate title they won last season with a tough home game against Hampton at Hamstead Hall School (noon).

Then at 2pm the club's over-40s team tackle Bristol side Robinsons Veterans in the quarter-finals of the England Hockey Masters Cup.

Several former and current internationals will be taking part.

Title win - Page 39



Jordanne Whiley on her way to all four tennis titles

**Revenge**  
Halas bounce back after cup reversal  
**Page 39**



**Bridge too far**  
Bland Baggies fall to Chelsea defeat  
**Page 39**



e-mail: [chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk)

## Ace! Four titles for Jordanne

JORDANNE WHILEY made it four titles from two tournaments this year after winning both the women's singles and doubles titles at the North-East tournament in Sunderland.

Halesowen's British No.2 justified her top seeding as she followed up victory at the North-West Challenge by claiming her second North-East title and the second ITF 2 Series singles title of her career.

Whiley faced familiar opposition in Sunderland, beating the same two French players she faced at the North-West Challenge. After a bye into the

### Wheelchair tennis

semi-finals, she eased past third seed Emilie Chene 6-1, 6-1 to move into a title decider against the second-seeded Christine Schoenn. Whiley won five games in succession to take the opener and then held off Schoenn in a tough second set to prevail 6-2, 7-5.

The London 2012 Paralympics women's doubles bronze medallist then took her tally of ITF 2 Series doubles titles to eight, partnering 17-year-old Lauren Jones.

The two – finalists at last October's

Nottingham Indoor in their first tournament together – defeated fellow Britons Debbie Braizer and Val Fisher 6-0, 6-1 in the semi-final. The final brought familiar opposition in Chene and Schoenn, but the top seeds eased through to a 6-1, 6-2 victory.

"I can't ask for much more than two singles and two doubles titles from my first two tournaments of 2013, so I'm very pleased," said Whiley.

"Christine put me under pressure in the second set in the singles, but I came through it and will go back to training happy."



Shannie Jennings with the ball for Halesowen

## Wake-up call for Ladies

Santiago Belles 1

Halesowen Town Ladies 3

HALESOWEN had to face a serious threat to their unbeaten record in Birmingham County Division Two, falling behind in the first two minutes.

They thought, wrongly, that the referee had stopped play. First to react was keeper Vicki Jones, who saved the initial shot but couldn't repel the second.

It proved to be a wake-up call for Halesowen, who equalised 10 minutes later through Sian Whittall after a skilful pass by winger Shannie Jennings.

The Yeltz squandered several chances but took the lead when Jennings found the net from a cross by Lyndsey Glover.

Glover had a chance to make it three when Halesowen won a penalty for handball but her spot-kick smacked into the angle of post and bar.

In the second half Halesowen displayed more vigour with the midfield of Dani Reade, Becky Jones, Glover and Jennings dominant.

Glover made amends for her penalty miss, making it 3-1 from a cross by Jo Butler.

**The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford. Thursday, March 7, 2013.**

# YELTZ RUN HALTED BY RED CARD BLOW

Halesowen Town 1 Belper Town 3

HALESOWEN battled hard but were unable to overcome the early blow of being reduced to 10 men, defeat snapping their run of seven successive league victories.

Play-off rivals Belper took an early lead on Tuesday night and extended their own long unbeaten sequence. With

### Halesowen Town

plenty at stake in a needle Evo-Stik North Division One South match, Belper's Jon Froggatt struck just wide on the turn in the second minute. But the pivotal moment arrived after just 13 minutes with Halesowen falling behind to a penalty and reduced to 10 men with a red card for Brendan Kelly.

After home goalkeeper Paul Evans failed to claim Simon Harrison's high free-kick, Richard Adams fired the loose ball towards goal.

### Handball

The ball struck Kelly's body in his attempt to clear the danger on the line with the defender's hands down against his side. However, referee Scott Postin awarded a penalty for handball and had no option but to send off Kelly.

Halesowen managed to get a good hand to the resulting penalty, but Froggatt's spot-kick trickled into the net.

The Yeltz made an immediate tactical substitution with wide man Jean Michel Guyges sacrificed in favour of Tom Warner.

Halesowen responded well as captain Neil Barnfield intercepted in midfield after 26 minutes to set up Luke Corbett, but he went for glory and screwed his spot-kick. Two minutes later, Halesowen was brought down again. This time Corbett fired the penalty home.

Aaron Griffiths then curled a fine 30th-minute free-kick from edge of the

## Old Hales clinch promotion with double win



The Old Halesonians defence looks to stand firm during their promotion drive from the MRHA Midlands Premier

OLD HALESONIANS men's hockey firsts clinched promotion to Midlands Division One with a double victory.

Old Hales needed a win and a draw from their weekend double-header – and did the job in style.

They won 3-1 at home to Tamworth on Saturday before romping to a 5-1 success at Old Silhillians the following day.

### Old Hales 3 Tamworth 1

Hales started Saturday's game in frenetic fashion. The fast end-to-end play meant Hales' defence had to be on guard, with goalkeeper Alex Fraser making a couple of penalty corner saves.

At the other end, the breakthrough came thanks to some good umpiring. Paul Woodall's winding run ended when he was fouled close to goal, but an excellent advantage allowed Tom

Bulteel to score. Bulteel added a second. His initial shot was saved, but he forced home the rebound.

In the second half, Chris Hill's hard cross was met by a diving Woodall and his deflected shot made it 3-0.

Tamworth grabbed a consolation goal in the final few minutes.

### Old Silhillians 1 Old Halesonians 5

Hales, now needing just a point to leave MRHA Midlands Premier, made just the start they wanted by scoring within minutes. A penalty corner was converted by injector Paul Harrold and signalled the start of a hammering.

Hales scored three more within 20 minutes, to take a 4-0 lead.

Hill deflected a Bulteel cross into the net for his first goal of the game and swiftly added a second. He made a winding run which tore the home defence apart. Hales added a fourth

when Bulteel capped a fine run by lashing his shot above the keeper's head.

Old Silhillians responded and started to press Hales. The home team won a string of penalty corners but were unable to convert.

Hales lost defender Mark Curzon, who was struck in the face. A later x-ray gave him the all-clear.

In the second half, Hales found themselves on the back foot with their shuffled defence – Bulteel now at right-back – under pressure.

Old Silhillians got a goal back, but Hales promptly grabbed their fifth through Harry Hughes.

The final whistle was met with celebrations as the win guaranteed Hales second place in MRHA West Midlands Premier and promotion.

More hockey – Page 39



## Washer Broken Need Help Fast ?

**£10 Discount** Off Any Repair Over £50

**Domestic Appliance Repair Centre**  
Homer Brothers Electrical  
Established 1973



### Same Day Call out to :-

\* Washers, Dryers, Cookers

\* Dishwashers, Ovens, Hobs \* Fridge Freezer, LCD, Plasma

\* Microwave, Range Cookers

\* Integrated or Freestanding \* All Makes, All Areas

\* Large Stocks of Spare Parts for DIY \* Cooker & Gas Fire Repairs

**Tel 0121 564 0029**

**Tel 01384 868 680**

[www.homerbrothers.co.uk](http://www.homerbrothers.co.uk)

